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THE ABYSSINIAN CAPTIVES.

M. THIERS, in a recent speech on the constantly-recurring subject of the Eastern question, is reported to have said that a Turk who obeyed the Koran was better than a Christian who set the precepts of the Gospel at naught. Anyone can appreciate the truth and force of this remark who compares the conduct of the late Sultan refusing, in spite of the menaces of Russia and Austria, to give up the Hungarians who had taken refuge at Constantinople, and that of King Theodore, the Christian Monarch of Abyssinia, who has subjected those whom he affects to regard as his fellow-Christians to an unjust and cruel imprisonment, and has refused, notwithstanding the most friendly—it may be feared, too friendly—representations, to liberate them. The telegram received, a few days ago, from Aden leads us to hope that justice from an unexpected quarter has already overtaken this most unchristian of Christian Sovereigns. He has apparently treated his own subjects in the same spirit that he has shown in his dealings with foreigners; and they, taking the law into their own hands, have rebelled against the tyrant.

If, happily, the captives should now be set free, the character of King Theodorus will form an interesting subject of study and nothing more, though it would not be advisable in future to study it from too close a post of observation. But doubt has already been thrown on the accuracy of the

Aden news, and for some time to come, and until positive information has been received that the prisoners are liberated, their position and the prospect of their being rescued from it will be the only point in connection with the Abyssinian

affair to which public attention will be earnestly directed. His Majesty's offer of marriage to the Queen; the long-delayed reply thereto, which, coming as it did from Lord Russell, and not from the Queen herself, naturally irritated

of Theodorus that England, as a Christian country, should help him, a Christian, to conquer a portion of the Sultan's Mohammedan dominion;—all this and much more similar matter of exceeding interest is to be found in the first of the

two Abyssinian bluebooks; but it is the second bluebook, which is made up entirely of correspondence on the subject of the prisoners, that especially claims notice at the present moment. The first throws most light on the character of King Theodorus; but the fullest account of the negotiations for the liberation of the captives is given in the second, which, moreover, shows the exact point at which matters stood when a letter from Lord Stanley brought the negotiations to an end.

At one time, now nearly a year ago, it seemed probable that, without offering to ransom the prisoners—a proceeding which, between friendly Sovereigns like Theodorus of Abyssinia and Victoria of England, was, naturally, not to be thought of—the British Government might yet succeed in prevailing upon his Majesty to accept certain gifts, and while accepting them to let his prisoners go. We believe the negotiation in the matter of the presents was very badly managed indeed. The King said, with some show of reason, that, if the Queen wished to send him complimentary gifts, she had better send them, and that he would behave in a friendly manner in return. But Lord Stanley explained—and explained, without making it at all clear to his

Majesty—that the presents were intended as presents, and at the same time that they were not to be given up unless the English captives were at the same time handed over. They were presents the positive offering of which was made dependent on the



"IN FOR IT."—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY J. K. THOMSON, IN THE SUFFOLK-STREET GALLERY.)

Theodorus, as it might have irritated any other Christian Sovereign; the first account of the seizure and imprisonment of the unfortunate Englishmen who have been held answerable for Lord Russell's want of tact; the proposition

The Committee also consider the present method of selecting arbitrators is unsatisfactory, and that, instead, the inspector and mine

owner should each appoint their own arbitrator, and that the two arbitrators should appoint an umpire.

They think that it is desirable to appoint stipendiary magistrates for the more populous mining districts.

The Committee rejected a motion that the present mode of selecting coroners' juries is unsatisfactory, but recommend that no person having a personal interest or employed in the mine where the fatal accident happened should serve on such juries.

REFORM MEETING IN HYDE PARK.

THE meeting in Hyde Park on Monday evening, called by the council of the Reform League and responded to in large numbers by the working men of London, passed off in a perfectly peaceable manner. Seven o'clock had been appointed as the time of assembling on and around the spot in the centre of the park occupied by the last demonstration. At the hour named Mr. Beales, Colonel Dickson, and other prominent members of the Reform League walked through the inclosure towards No. 1 platform, and were loudly cheered as they were recognised in passing. The plan of dividing the meeting into sections, at each of which some experienced popular leader and orator presided, had been found so entirely satisfactory and so conducive to order at the last demonstration that the general programme of arrangements was repeated on this occasion, with a few slight alterations of detail. In the marshalling of the procession itself the only important change consisted. It will be remembered that, by advice of the council of the Reform League, bands and banners were dispensed with, when the practical pooh-poohing of Mr. Walpole's proclamation was determined on; and that only one branch of the league acted in opposition to the president's orders. But on Monday it was doubtless felt that the need of any control or restriction in the matter of outward display had gone by. The several branches brought out their banners, flags, scarfs, wands of office, music, and other signs and manifestations, and joined in one long procession, which approached the park by Oxford-street and the Marble Arch. A marshal, distinguished by a broad crimson scarf, led the way, and after him about 200 men marched six or eight abreast before any flag or banner appeared, except a very conspicuous and singular ensign, which led by a long interval the array of fluttering silk and painted cloth. The flag borne in advance was red and ragged, the tatters being unmistakably artificial; and across the bunting was pasted diagonally a strip of paper, on which was printed in large letters the name, "Hyde Park." On the pole of this emblem was a *bonnet rouge*, having the tricolour cockade and a green wreath affixed. Sprinkled pretty plentifully in the procession were other red flags, some of which had also caps of liberty surmounting the plain square of scarlet. The first large banner bore the title and the insignia of the Holborn branch, and it was closely followed by the Clerkenwell contingent, in connection with which was a flag inscribed with the words "Serfdom is infamy; liberty most glorious." On one of the numerous red flags was the word "Sydenham," and then came the immense yellow banner of the London Workmen's Association, with its motto, "In God is our trust." A device having for its subject the rising led by Wat Tyler followed; and the rear of the procession was brought up by the ensigns of the Hackney-road branch, the West-End branch, the United Cabinet-makers, the St. Anne's branch, the John Bright branch, and other sections. The marching of the whole body was wonderfully steady, and may rather be said to have credited the music of the bands than to have derived any assistance from the stirring sounds. A favourite tune was the somewhat *passé* "Three Cheers for the Red, White, and Blue," whose memories are of the Crimean campaign and the popularly-forgotten war with Russia. A still more frequent theme with the performers on the bugle, trombone, and big drum was a nigger melody which has been promoted to the place of a patriotic tune with the Leaguers, and is known by the title, "Rally Round the League, Boys." On coming near the Marble Arch the foremost band in the procession played "The Marseillaise Hymn."

With prompt and well-regulated action, the great body, as soon as it had reached the centre of the park, laid down the banners and took up positions round ten points, or imaginary platforms, thus appropriated to the several charismen:—No. 1, Mr. Edmund Beales, president of the league; 2, Mr. J. Baxter Langley; 3, Dr. P. W. Pefitt; 4, Mr. George Mantle; 5, Mr. B. Lucraft; 6, Mr. W. R. Cremer; 7, Mr. George Odger; 8, Mr. R. A. Cooper; 9, Mr. William Delli; 10, Mr. J. Weston. Certain rules with regard to the sounding of a bugle had been laid down, for the direction of the speakers, to ensure a simultaneous action in the putting the resolutions and in the reassembling of the procession at the close of the business; and these rules were observed with nearly perfect precision. There were, at the same time, two or three independent knots of listeners round speakers unauthorised by the league. "A New Litany of Reform," which is not so new but that it may be recognised as an exploded quib of the last Hyde Park demonstration, and which is not so decent as to justify any attempt to explode it a second time, was read with mock solemnity by a very dirty parson and a very much dirtier clerk; the adjuration, "O Wally, hear us!" betraying at once the obsolete date of the prayer, which is addressed not to the member for Peterborough, whose name by a phonetic resemblance seems to occur in it, but to Mr. ex-Secretary Walpole. Another large group—indeed, a tolerably large crowd, as it may be with good warrant called—gathered round three gentlemen who had ridden into the middle of the inclosure, and one of whom essayed to address the men around him from his saddle, while his two companions remained mounted beside him. The speaker, in very moderate and conciliatory language, questioned the moral right as well as the expediency of political assemblies in a pleasure park. He was not very patiently listened to even for a little while; but when, having ventured to caution his audience against putting too high a value on demonstrations such as that of Monday evening, he used the expression, "They are but rough demonstrations, after all," his language was strangely misunderstood as an insult, and the loudest yells were hurled at him, till he succeeded in explaining that the word "rough" had been applied in a sense very different from that in which it seemed to be taken. On his attempting, with great calmness, to proceed, loud interruptions assailed him on all sides, not the least noisy being the well-meant calls for order and fair play. "Him that's a speaking sint far wrong," said one man in the crowd; "it's them as won't let him say what he's got for to say." Loud cries of "Name," "Give us your name," "What is it? Come, now! Don't be ashamed to tell us your name," mingled so loudly in the sounds of interruption, that at last the speaker said, "You may call me 'Tom,' then; it's one of my names; if I were to tell you the other the knowledge wouldn't affect the value of my arguments in your estimation, I assure you." He was continuing, when some one called out, "Three cheers for John Bright," on which the speaker instantly removed his hat, with a motion so evidently indicative of hearty concurrence in the respect and admiration which the name elicited, that the cheering was turned upon him, with all the good humour of an English crowd in its right mood. The sudden burst of noise, however, startled the horses, and the only method of quieting them was a canter across the sward.

A sprinkling of rain from the heavy clouds that gathered ominously from the south had its effect in hastening the close of the proceedings; though the procession was leaving the park by the side of the Marble Arch, at twenty minutes past eight o'clock, before the rain had begun to fall heavily. The group at one of the sections was so ill-advised as to march in a body to the House of Lords, and to give a *charivari* of yells, hisses, and groans under the walls of the building. With this exception, no act of impropriety could be alleged against any of the persons who composed the meeting.—*Daily Telegraph*.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES to the successful competitors in the artillery competition at Shoeburyness took place on Saturday. The Earl of Longford, the Under Secretary for War, presided. The proceedings of the gathering have been quite successful.

EARL RUSSELL ON THE EDUCATION OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

EARL RUSSELL attended, last Saturday, the opening of new school buildings at Mount Ararat, Richmond, and was the principal speaker. The Richmond British Schools were established in May, 1858. Their commencement was very small. A boys' school was first started; soon after a girls' school was added. The educational operations have been up to the present carried on in the basement story of the Vineyard chapel. By means of goodly subscriptions, a more eligible site was secured and the buildings opened on Saturday were erected. Application was made to Government for pecuniary assistance, but the regulations of the Committee of Council on Education respecting such structures not having been complied with, no grant was allowed. In addition to what had been collected, £678 more will be required by next October, and £30 remains due to the treasurer. To assist in meeting this it was suggested to raise £350 Government stocks, so that close upon £350 remain to be made up by next October. Mr. Nicholson, Mr. C. Bart, and other gentlemen, fully explained those matters to a large crowd of ladies and gentlemen who on Saturday thronged the three principal apartments of the building. The business part of the proceedings was followed by a luncheon.

Earl Russell, in responding to the toast of his health, said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I regret that I was not present at the early portion of the proceedings. My excuse is that we have for some length of time, in London, been obliged to engage in late hours, and last night was no exception to that practice. It was very late last night when I got home from the House of Lords, and I have got so much mixed up with the question now engaging that House that I really find it difficult to speak on any other topic. I am very proud of the honour of having been elected president of these schools, more particularly as it is an establishment having for its object the providing of education for a class that cannot, perhaps, well provide it for themselves. It seems to me that, whatever we may do in Parliament with reference to the conferring upon vast numbers of the working classes and the small householders the right of voting, we ought to take care to do what we hitherto have not done—that is, we ought to see that those persons are tolerably educated, that they go to school in early life, and that they at least know something of the three R's—reading, "riting," and "rithmetic." I do not think that it is too much to ask that this should be done. Certainly, hitherto that task has not been satisfactorily performed. For my part, I entirely owe my connection with these schools to my father's friendliness towards them. Sixty years ago he became a friend and a patron of the system of education started by Joseph Lancaster; and one of my earliest recollections is, when a boy, putting on Joseph Lancaster's broad hat and mimicking his manner of salutation. My father's connection with those schools naturally resulted in a desire on my part to promote their extension. I must say that from that time to this I have never changed my mind regarding these schools. The education of those who cannot well afford to pay for it, I consider, a very serious matter, so serious a matter that I should not like to dilate upon it at any length just now. It has always seemed to me a very great injustice that we make our laws fall so heavily upon those who commit offences, while we do not teach them in early youth the way in which they may avoid the commission of those offences. I remember that during the early inquiries which I made respecting the education of this country, a story used to be told of a boy who, I think it was said, lived in Derbyshire. It was related of this boy that he was found putting down snares for the purpose of catching hares. The boy was imprisoned for the offence, and the Chaplain of the prison came to him and inquired what he had been doing previously. The Chaplain found out that the boy had never heard of Jesus Christ nor of the Bible. The boy stated that he had been employed as an agricultural labourer six days in the week, and that on the Sunday he used to be engaged cleaning horses. As far as the knowledge of the Christian religion went, the little fellow was entirely ignorant. It seems to me to be a great injustice that, in this country, where we have the means for opening schools, we employ all the rigours of imprisonment against those who break through the laws, and do not give them the knowledge whereby they may be enabled to avoid those offences. Such being the case, I have always been in favour of the British Schools, because they are schools for all, as William Allen used to say. It was absolutely necessary that these schools should be in their nature secular, but they should also be religious. The religious teaching given in these schools should not, however, be of a sectarian character. It was, no doubt, desired that the children should learn that particular form of doctrine to which their parents were attached, and which was most consistent with their feelings; but, while they are young boys and girls at school, they ought to be made to know what Christ has taught and what the Apostles have preached, for by these precepts will they be enabled to properly guide their conduct through life. Ladies and Gentlemen,—I trust the schools opened to-day may flourish. I trust that no very great deal of time will elapse before the children attending them may learn much; that the instruction received here may benefit them through life; and that after fitting themselves for those pursuits to which they may be called they may have the time and the inclination to further improve themselves. I am sorry to be obliged to have to say that there are many countries in Europe in which public instruction has been better provided for than in this; but we have in England what I trust we shall never part with. In this country those boys and girls who receive education in such institutions as this are fully at liberty to follow their conscientious convictions, and to speak and write, without fear of punishment, what they believe to be true and good. I am happy that such excellent schools as these are established in this neighbourhood, and I trust that those who have charge of them will attend as much to the health of the children as to their intellectual instruction. I trust that those in whose charge these children are will do all in their power to promote their well-being, not alone, as I have said, with regard to their mental culture, but also their health. I am happy to give you now a toast to which I am certain you will be quite ready to respond. It is, "Prosperity to the Richmond British Schools, and all other institutions for the Advancement of Education."

The noble Earl resumed his seat amid much applause. Addresses were afterwards delivered by Mr. Carvell Williams, Mr. E. Chadwick, Dr. Unwin, and other gentlemen. In the course of the evening subscriptions towards making up the amount required were announced, including £10 from Earl Russell.

MR. BRIGHT, M.P., having been invited to the banquet about to be given in Kilkenny to Sir John Gray and Mr. Bryan, regrets it is not in his power to accept the invitation, and adds:—"The 'Irish Question' comes more and more to the front, and I hope very soon we may have an answer to the question put by the Parliament of Kilkenny, and to which I referred in Dublin in October last, 'How comes it that the King is never the richer for Ireland?'"

HARVEST PROSPECTS.—Harvest has commenced throughout Sussex. A considerable breadth of wheat and oats, and of beans and peas, has been cut; and the present week will find the work of harvest pretty general. The late rains have been very beneficial in the growth of the turnip and root crops, as also in stimulating the second crops of hay and grass generally. There is plenty of feed; and the pastures are, as a rule, fresher than is usual at this period of the summer—a fact to be accounted for by the late showers and the absence of hot sun. The general opinion seems to be that the harvest in York-shire and neighbouring counties will be fully up to the average of previous years, and even, provided the weather for the next few days be favourable, somewhat above it. Root crops are spoken of as being unusually good, and the hay harvest was this year one of the best ever known.

THE CHOLERA.—A correspondent writing from Naples, says:—"The cholera still lingers in Rome, and though the cases are comparatively few, there is reason to believe that it is of the true Asiatic type. There can be doubt, however, of its having broken out at Palestrina, Genzano, and Olevano with much violence. In Tivoli and other places, also, it has made its appearance. The wonder is that, being in Rome, it did not assume a more dangerous character during the time when there were such enormous crowds collected. From Sicily we receive most distressing news. The Syndic of Naples has received from the Syndic of Riposto, in the province of Messina, a telegram, saying, 'The doctors, fearing an invasion of the cholera, have all fled, and one is required at any price whatever.' The Syndic of Rossano, in the province of Cosenza, in Calabria, by another telegram, asks for beccchini (people to bury the dead). One medical man only was found willing to leave for Riposto, asking as his salary 100*l.* a day (a large sum in these southern latitudes) but he afterwards refused to go, from fear of being assassinated, and as being deprived of the protection of the authorities. In Catania, which may be said to be depopulated, the cholera rages, and 500 persons a day are attacked. There, as in other places, doctors and druggists have fled—not so much from fear of the disease as from fear of being murdered by an ignorant and brutalised population, who see poison in the very remedies adopted for their relief. The Prefect of Catania, Signor Fasciotti, has been among those attacked. Of the attempt of the Forzati to escape I have already spoken, and of the great difficulty with which they were reduced by a company of the bersaglieri; at Caltagirone, however, they succeeded in escaping, and 300 of these brutes now traverse the country committing thefts and murders. In Catania another danger was, and is, menaced, as the poorer classes have shown a disposition to revolt and sack the houses of the wealthy. Few, if any, of the municipal authorities of the provinces of Catania, Caltanissetta, Caltagirone, and Messina have done their duty in these distressing circumstances, when assassination and cholera threatened them. The consequence has been that the Government has deprived many syndics of office."

THE SYSTEM OF RETIREMENT FROM THE ARMY.

THE report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the system of retirement from the three non-purchase corps of Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, and Royal Marines, was issued on Saturday. The following are the recommendations of the Committee:—

"That the present system of retirement on annuities of £600 or £400 a year, or on permanent half pay after twenty-five years' service, and the practice of purchasing commissions by means of the Army Reserve Fund, be discontinued. That at the age of sixty every colonel of artillery or engineers be placed on the reserved list, and while on that list be considered ineligible for ordinary regimental duties; but eligible for staff or special employments, if selected by the military authorities. That an officer so removed should receive the pay of a major-general, and retain his right of succession to the major-general's establishment and to the command of a battalion. That every colonel, on removal to the reserved list, should have the option of retiring from the Army on £600 a year, with a step in honorary rank. That every officer, after completing twenty-two years' service, should have the absolute right to retire, with a step of honorary rank and with an annuity according to the following scale, irrespective of pensions for wounds or distinguished service:—

No. of Years' Service.	Annuity.	Probable Age.	Probable Value of Annuity.
22	£250	42	£3270
	increasing by £25		annually to
25	325	45	4080
28	400	48	4780
30	450	50	5050
	increasing by £15		annually to
35	525	55	5500
40	600	60	5410

That provision be made by Parliament to enable an officer to compound (through the agency of the National Debt Office) his annuity for its "present value," regard being had to his age and the state of his health, and the computation of value being made at 5 per cent interest. (The fourth column in the above table shows the values of the proposed annuities on the assumption that the life is good and that the officer obtained his commission at twenty years of age.) That no commutation of pension be allowed, except on the retirement of the officer. That no officer be retired on half pay, except wounds or ill-health; and that officers rendered unfit for service by ill health be allowed to continue on the half-pay list, whatever their length of service may have been, power being retained to bring them back to their former place in the corps when pronounced fit for duty. Your Committee would refer to the evidence given by his Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief with respect to officers placed on temporary half pay. That it should be in the discretion of the military authorities to employ or not any officer who shall have acquired the right to retire on a pension. That retirement from the Marines should be governed by similar regulations, the maximum annuity being £600, except in the case of an existing Colonel Commandant, whose annuity may be £700 a year. It will be necessary, in future arrangements with the Government of India, to provide for the due proportion of the cost of the retirements of artillery and engineer officers being defrayed from Indian revenues."

THE ECCLESIASTICAL TITLES ACT.—The Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons on the Ecclesiastical Titles Act—a measure which, it will be remembered, arose out of the Papal aggression of 1851—have reported in favour of its repeal. Two reports were proposed to the Committee—one, by Mr. Walpole, against repealing the Act; and the other by Mr. M'Evoe, the chairman, in the contrary sense. The first, on being put to the vote, was rejected by the casting vote of the chairman, who then proposed his report, which, in like manner, was carried by his casting vote. There were, however, thirteen members of the Committee present, so that Mr. M'Evoe's triumph was not due to his use of the double vote usually vested in chairmen. The weight of a report, however, carried by the narrowest possible majority is not nearly so great with the House as when it has a larger proportion of members in its favour.

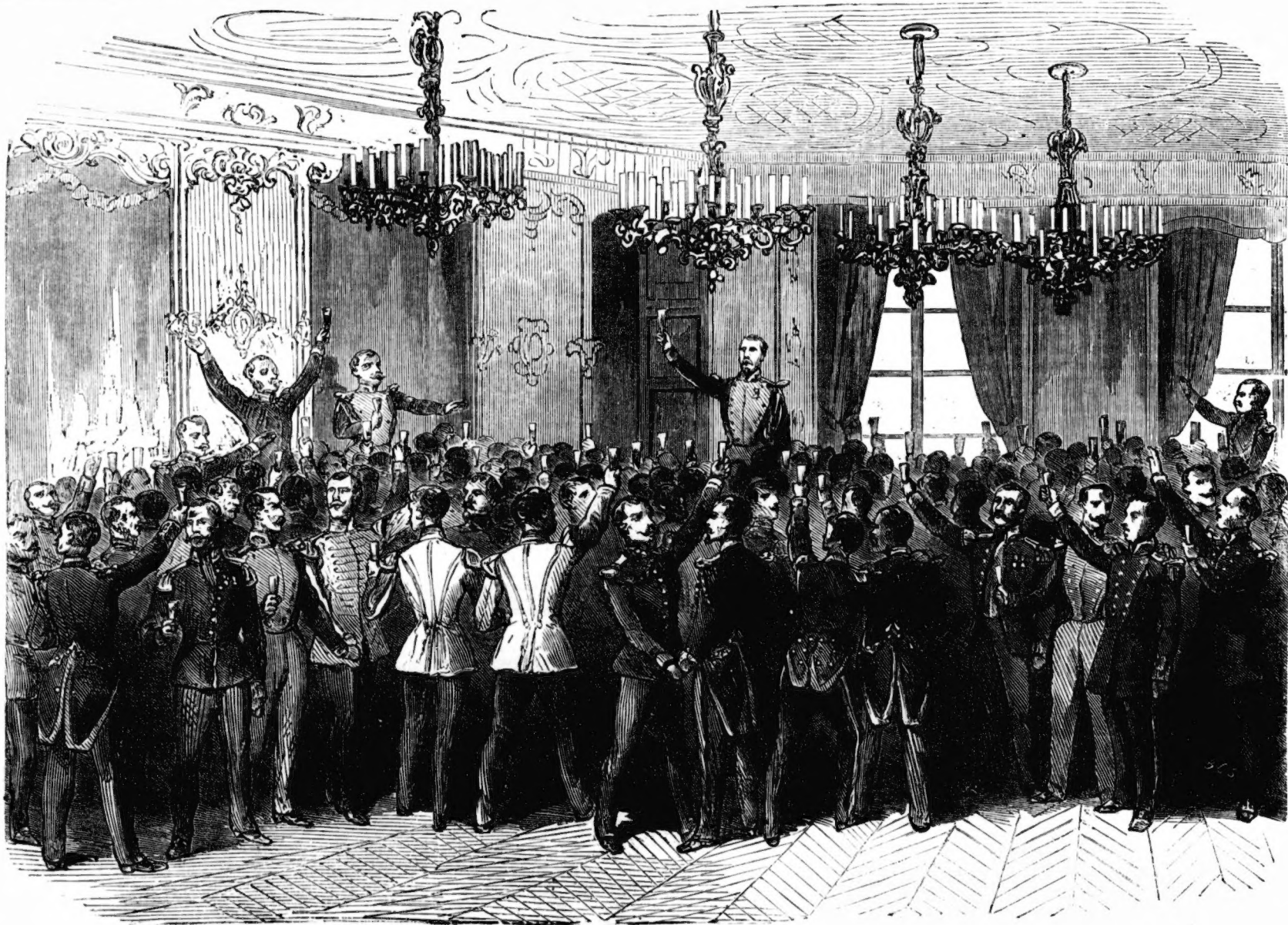
VISIT OF THE ROYAL GUESTS AT PARIS TO THE CHATEAU OF PIERREFONDS.

IT is not only to see the great Exhibition that visitors still flock to Paris. The Exhibition may be the occasion, but, once there, they find opportunities of seeing sights as famous as any of those which demand their special attention in the Champ de Mars. Amongst these there are few more interesting than that ancient palace which, having been already partially restored and re-named Pierrefonds, is full of suggestion of the history of France, her rulers, her tyrants, her Court beauties, her vicissitudes, her successes—above all, her military genius and martial spirit. It is not to be wondered at that the Prince Royal of Prussia desired to spend some hours in viewing the marvellous collection of ancient arms and accoutrements which the Emperor is now engaged in arranging in the great saloon of the Palace. The subject of arms is now an engrossing one, and seems to have received no little attention even in an Exhibition inaugurated and maintained for the professed purpose of promoting peace and goodwill; and it is not a little remarkable that some of the apparently new inventions are discovered to be no more than trifling modifications of the most remote engines of the art of warfare. The Prince, with the Princess and a party of ladies and gentlemen, made a pleasant excursion to the palace in an open char-a-banc drawn by six horses, and were received at the "fosse" by M. Violet Leduc, the architect, who ushered them into the saloon of arms, which was reached by the grand staircase. The restorations are already far advanced under the able superintendence of the gentleman to whom they have been intrusted, and the museum of arms (a vast saloon) is magnificently decorated and ornamented with panels of carved oak. In this room the ancient arms in the Emperor's own collection are exhibited, including the greater part of those formerly belonging to Prince Soltykoff. One of the most remarkable objects is a singular cuirass of plate iron presented to his Majesty by the Empress. Every weapon of the moyen age is there represented, and there are numerous examples of exquisite damascening in blades and scabbards. A grand series of suits of armour occupies the walls, and amongst them a suite of German armour which might have made the Prince jealous of his Imperial host. One of the principal objects in this saloon, however, is the superb chimney represented in our illustration, and occupying one end of the apartment. The mantel is supported by pillars rising from a pair of hearths, and above it, inclosed in a magnificent Gothic dais, are nine coloured statues, representing classical figures, real and fabulous. The collection of saddlery is also a most attractive feature of the Exhibition; and the curiosities of the museum, added to the exquisite ornamentation of the saloon itself, render a visit to Pierrefonds profoundly interesting.

Our second illustration represents the exterior of the ancient building now in process of restoration. The sketch from which our engraving was taken was made at the recent visit of the King of Portugal, who accompanied the Emperor from Paris to see the magnificent collection in the Imperial museum just completed, and afterwards went on with the Imperial party to Compiègne. The point at which the visitors alighted, and that most prominent in our Engraving, is the foot of the old tower of Charlemagne now being rebuilt.

FOREIGN MILITARY BANDS IN PARIS.

AMONG the various attractions which are now charming the world of Paris in these later days of the French Exhibition the military bands must not be forgotten. The Orpheoists, the village choirs, and our own Tonic Sol-fa Association have all had their innings, and have been praised, and prized, and medalled, and then follows a grand competition of the bands of the armies of Europe which played to an assembly of critics who were good judges of what military music ought to be—that is to say, of the Parisian public. Various, indeed, were the uniforms of the performers, from the neat get-up of the Garde Française and the trim Belgian, to the



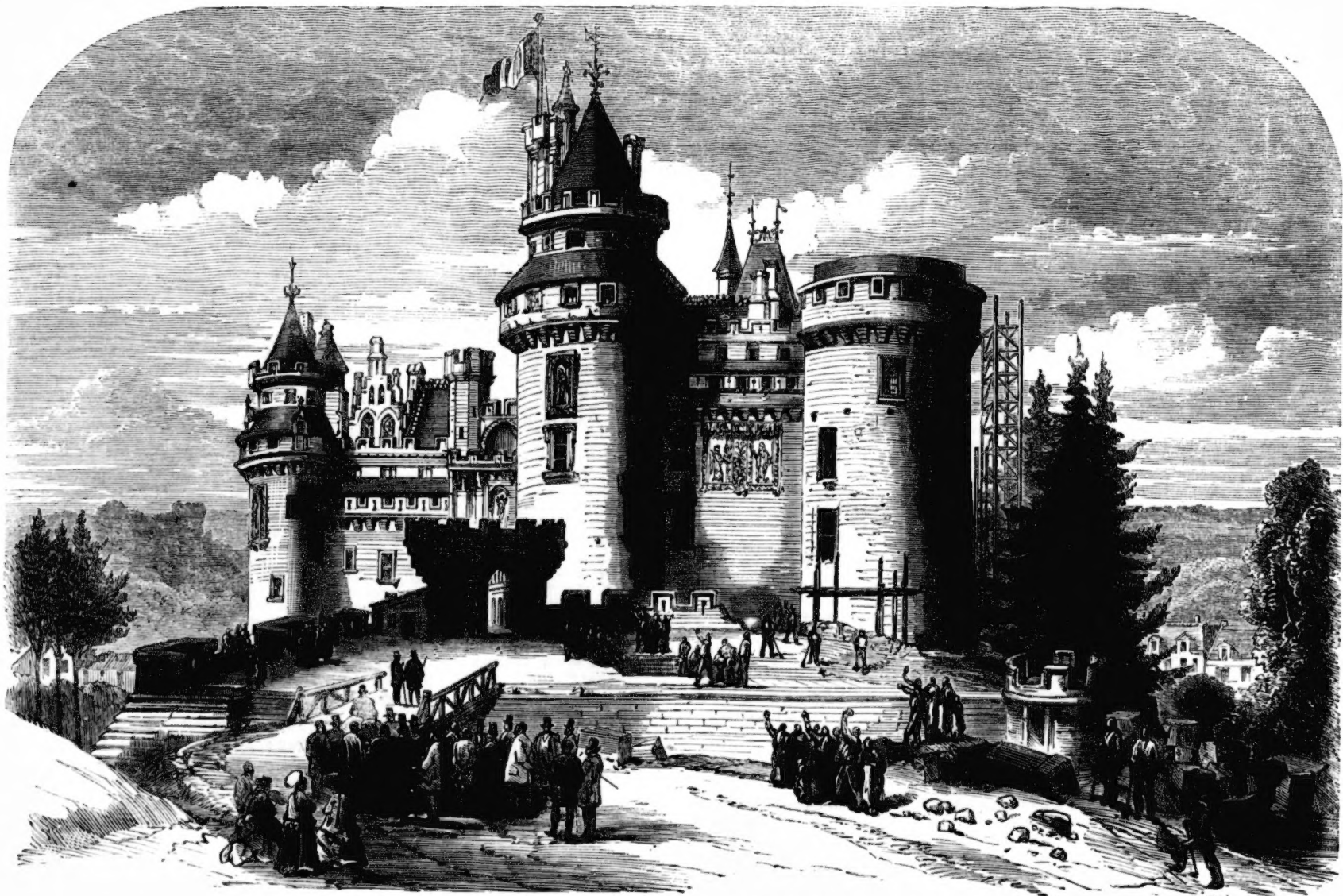
BANQUET GIVEN BY THE GARDE DE PARIS TO FOREIGN MILITARY BANDS.

gorgeous bear kined, belaced, and richly-tagged Guides, the horse-tail-plumed Badois, the spike-helmeted Prussian, the cage-crested braided Russian, the white-coated Austrian, and the admirably-tailored representative of Spain. Of all the bands the Austrians have best maintained their hold of public appreciation. Who can ever forget the marvellous precision, the élan, the perfect execution of those rigid musicians? Only the other day there was a complete furore in the Tuileries gardens, where a great assembly went to hear them play a selection.

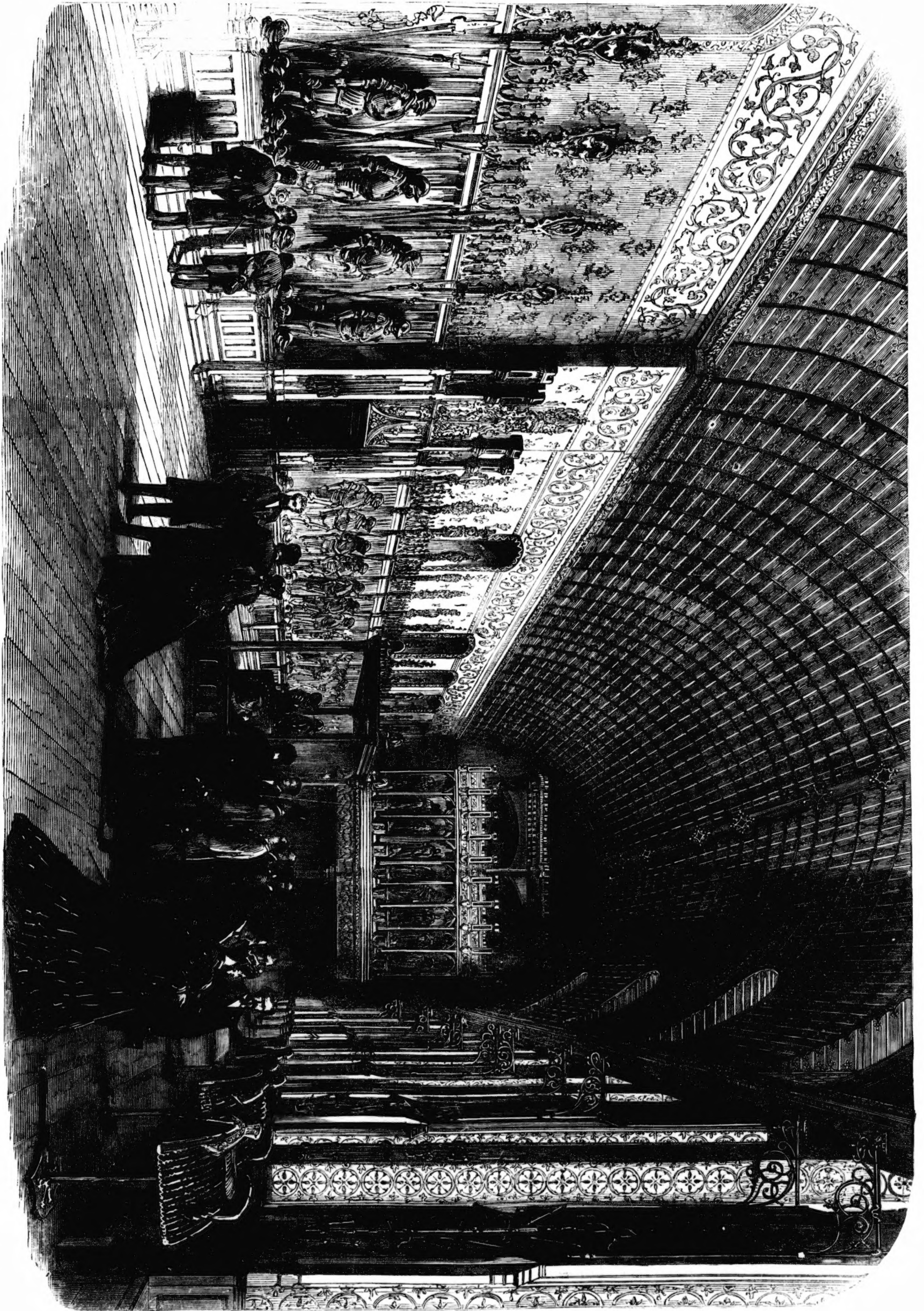
It was only to last an hour, from five to six in the evening; and at two o'clock there was a rush for the first row of wire chairs—a rush, and almost a fight, in which many ladies distinguished themselves. Before the overture began there was such a dense crowd that nothing could be heard but the scraping of feet and the murmurs of the unfortunate who occupied remote standpoints; but at last there was silence, and those who were near enough had a treat. Just as the concert was concluding the Emperor, the King of Portugal, and a large suite passed by the Rue de Rivoli. The band halted, and then

began to play "La Reine Hortense," amidst the hearty cheering of the people.

The attentions paid to the members of the various bands have not been confined to the public, however; for the Garde de Paris have a reputation to sustain, and are not a little careful of it, so that a grand banquet at the Frères Provençaux has been one of the prominent events connected with this harmonious fraternisation, and also one of the most brilliant assemblies of this exceptionally brilliant season.



THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON AND THE KING OF PORTUGAL VISITING PIERREFONDS.



INTERIOR OF THE CHATEAU OF PIERREFONDS.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 315.

DEFICIENCIES IN WESTMINSTER PALACE.

THE palace of Westminster is an enormous and costly building. It covers six acres of ground. It contains, including the official residences, over 600 rooms. It cost more than two millions of money, some say nearer three; but in reality nobody knows, and nobody will ever know, what it cost. But, though so costly and so vast, it is sadly deficient in accommodation. The House of Commons is not large enough, the dining-room ditto, whilst the library is overflowing its bounds. Moreover, until this Session the leader of the House had no chamber to which he could retire. True, there is what is called a Ministers' room at the back of the Speaker's chair; but this is common to all the Ministers; and, further, as it is within the precincts of the House, the leader's private secretary and other non-Parliamentary officials could not be admitted. This evil has, however, been remedied. Mr. Disraeli, whilst he had the Reform Bill in hand, found that he so often wanted a private room in which he could consult and employ his secretary and other officials, that he requested the Serjeant-at-Arms to find him one, and, of course, one had to be found. It is in the corridor at the back of the House, and the way to it is by a private door behind the chair, the door through which Mr. Speaker retires to his residence. This chamber, though, could only be got by the summary eviction of one of the officials of the House. However, that inconvenience has been removed; but there is another, for which no remedy has yet been provided. Every day this evil cries aloud, but hitherto not with sufficient potency to get itself noticed. The grievance alluded to is this: In all this vast building, with its 600 chambers, there is no room where members can meet their friends to consult with them on business. Into the library no stranger can take a friend in Session, can lawfully go. A member can take a friend or two to dine with him in the dining-room, but no gatherings for business purposes are allowed there. Then there is the tea-room. That used to be deemed equally sacred, and by the law it is so now. But necessity has no law; and in this case, the necessity being urgent, the law has had to give way, and for some time past it has been the custom to receive deputations in the tea-room. But until lately these deputations were always of a select character—respectable deputations. Those deputations of "wittlers," for instance, about which we have occasionally written, were never admitted there; nor such deputations as that from Lambeth, which assembled in such force to see the Home Secretary on the Sabbath question. The *profanum vulgus* had to assemble in the lobby or in the corridors. It was only the élite that were taken into the tea-room. In short, though the law might be broken, it was to be broken only by respectable people.

STORM IN A TEACUP.

But last week—somehow or other, we know not how—a deputation from the League got in. It was said that it improvised a public meeting there; but this is an exaggeration. We have Mr. Mill's word to prove that there was nothing of the character of a public meeting in this gathering. It was simply a private meeting of a deputation of the League and certain members of Parliament. However, it was a gathering of certain members of the League, and that was enough. Think of it! Beales, Dixon, Odgers, and such low people in the tea-room of the House of Commons—under our very noses! Intolerable! This must be looked to. Amongst others whose righteous souls were vexed by the gathering of these inodorous people was Mr. Thompson Hankey, the Liberal member for Peterborough. He was excessively irate. Had it been a deputation of merchants and bankers to talk to the Chancellor of the Exchequer about an impending or actual panic, or of shipowners to see the President of the Board of Trade on the subject of the navigation laws, or any respectable deputation, why, the thing might be let pass. "Irregular, perhaps; but necessary in such case," would have been the verdict. But a deputation of the League! Pah! the very idea is nauseous—disgusting. These persons may bully the Home Office and force their way into the park; but they must not think that they can beard the House of Commons. Such were, no doubt, the thoughts in the mind of Mr. Thompson Hankey. And now for the way in which he went to work to prevent a repetition of this sort of thing. The management of such matters as these is in the hands of the Serjeant-at-Arms; and, no doubt, if Mr. Hankey had gone privately to that high functionary, he would have quietly investigated the case, and, if there had been any infringement of the rules, would have used effectual means to prevent a repetition of the infringement. But such a quiet and private method did not suit Mr. Hankey's book; there was nothing of fame—or, say, notoriety—to be got out of it. The House of Commons, it has been said, is like the elephant, who, with that trunk of his, can root up an oak and pick up a pin; and in theory this is true. At all events, it occasionally stoops to very small matters. Naturalists tell us that there is in Nature an infinitely little which has never been explored; and there is also an infinitely little in man which has never been fathomed. The House of Commons on this occasion certainly stooped to something very small indeed; and Mr. Hankey favoured us with a fresh discovery in the region of "the infinitely little."

HORRORS.

On Friday night, last week, the House employed itself in discussing the Orissa famine—famine, readers, in a district of Bengal, which, in one year, we learn, destroyed over 700,000 people. When we heard this from Mr. Danby Seymour, who opened the debate, not having found time to read the bluebooks upon the subject, we thought that this must be an exaggeration. Seven hundred thousand people out of some 4,000,000 destroyed by famine in a district under British rule, not more than some 200 miles from the seat of Government, where an English Viceroy dwells in almost Royal state! Impossible, we thought. To make a sensation, Mr. Danby Seymour must be painting with a big brush. But, alas! it is too true, as we afterwards heard. Horror of horrors! It is indeed time that such a disaster should be traced to its primal cause; and if any official, however high, has been guilty of neglect or incompetency, let us have him out and visit him with condign punishment. It is a noble employment for the British Parliament, this. The House cannot remedy this disaster; but it can, perhaps, discover the authors of it and punish them; and thus prevent a recurrence of such a wholesale destruction of human life by want. With these feelings we set ourselves to listen to the debate, and we must say that with the debate itself we had reason, on the whole, to be satisfied. As far as mere talking went, the evening's proceedings were successful. Mr. Danby Seymour is not usually a taking speaker; his statements are often loose, his argumentation is inconclusive, and his manner is unimpressive; but on this occasion he appeared to do his work well. His speech was, perhaps, too long. But, then, what a frightful scroll he had to unroll—scroll, like that of the prophet, written within and without with "lamentation, mourning, and woe"! Not before had we ever heard such a frightful story as this; and God grant that the House may never have to listen to such a revelation again! Men dying by thousands a day; dead lying in the highways in heaps, "heaps upon heaps;" the dogs feeding upon the dead! But the tale is too sickening, and must not be repeated here. Well, as far as talking went, the work of the night was done well. The horrors were revealed in all their hideousness; the causes of the disaster were more or less clearly ascertained, and the officials, who might, at least, have mitigated if not prevented the mischief, were brought to the front and exposed. But here our praise must cease. There was plenty of talk, good talk, faithful and true talk. The famine was graphically described and scientifically traced to its natural cause; and the men who might have mitigated, or even prevented, these horrors were freely named, and severely censured, but this was all. There was not even a vote of censure passed against these sinners in high places; and as to recalling them, there was scarcely a hint in that direction; and we do not suppose that a single member dreamed for a moment that they should be brought home as prisoners, as it seemed to us they ought to be, and tried for their sins.

LORD CRANBOURNE.

The speech of the night was unquestionably that of Lord Cranbourne. His Lordship, to the surprise of many in the House, was not present during a great part of the debate. He did not hear Mr. Danby Seymour's long indictment, nor Mr. Smollett's explosion of righteous indignation, nor Mr. Austin Bruce's weak defence of his kinsman, Sir Cecil Beadon, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, who when the famine was raging was far away on the hills recruiting his health. What a sarcasm we have here! The worst enemy of the Lieutenant-Governor could not have said anything worse than that. Thousands and thousands of the people were dying daily, "in heaps," as Mr. Smollett said; and where is the Governor? Gone to Darjeeling to recruit his health. But to return. Why should Lord Cranbourne come early to this debate? What could Mr. Danby Seymour, or anyone else, tell him more than he knew? He had thoroughly investigated the case, probed it to the very bottom, and knew all about its horrors. For Lord Cranbourne was for a time Chief Secretary of State for India. Why did he do nothing? Alas! he went to the India Board too late. Had he gone two years earlier, all might have been different. As soon as he got there, he did what he could; but this was little. However, he had studied the matter well, and hence there was no necessity for him to come and listen to the horrible story. He came in, though, at last. Just as men were wondering why he did not come, he quietly, with a couple of bluebooks under his arm, glided into the House and took his seat; and, when opportunity offered, rose, and, amidst a silence as of death, began to speak. We had the gratification of hearing his speech, and have to report that not for many a day have we heard a speech so clear, so faithful, so solemn as that.

AS HE WAS, AND AS HE IS.

And here we may notice the difference between the Lord Cranbourne of to-day and the Lord Cranbourne of former days. His Lordship is "converted," to use a forcible word which had degenerated into cant, but which Carlyle, in his "Sartor Resartus," rescued and re-sanctified; that is, he is entirely changed. He used to be—well, we will not say what he used to be, for our readers know it all, and it is more pleasant to look at him as he now is. He is now, then, one of the most serious, earnest, candid, independent men in the House. What has wrought this change it is not difficult to discover. Lord Cranbourne is a disappointed man. Nay, readers, start not; we do not mean that Lord Cranbourne is disappointed because he cannot get into office, as so many members whom we could name are. He did get in, and, but for his conscience, might be in now. No; he is not disappointed because he is out of office. What is it, then, that has disappointed him? Let us see. For many years he was a party man—that is to say, he believed that it was essential for good and safe government that his party should be in power. We cannot say that he gave up to party what was meant for mankind; for, as we now see, he honestly believed that the good of mankind was included in the rule of his party. And how zealously he supported that party we all know. All his acuteness, all his forcible eloquence, were used to promote the return of that party to office; and all the artillery of his logic and sarcasm were untiringly directed against the enemy which stood in his way. At last success crowned his efforts. In 1866 the Liberals went out, the Tories came in, and he was made a chief Secretary of State and member of the Cabinet; and his ideal of a country governed upon Conservative principles was about to be realised, as he thought. But what happened? In a moment his ideal, just as he was about to realise it, as if by the wand of an enchanter, tumbled into ruins, and vanished before his eyes. The Conservative party, which he had so perseveringly and ably helped to conquer office, that it might govern England upon Conservative principles, almost to a man, as if they had eaten the insane root which takes the reason prisoner, deserted their high, shining table land, and rushed down, like a herd of bullocks turned mad, into the very depths of Radicalism. This was what the noble Lord had to see and experience: his hopes all wrecked, his ideal in ruins; and of all that Conservative party, but lately so compact and strong, he almost alone faithful. This, then, is the cause of his disappointment, and this is the cause of the change in him which we and all around him notice. He used to be caustic, acrimonious, and uncharitable; but now, instead of sarcasm, acrimony, and uncharitableness, we have seriousness, solemnity, earnestness, stern independence. In short, all party incrustations have dropped off him, and we see before us the real man. All his speech was most impressive; and when he sat down the long-sustained silence and profound attention was broken by an enthusiastically hearty cheer from both sides of the House, and incontinently Mr. Stuart Mill rushed across the floor apparently to render the noble Lord his thanks and congratulations.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, AUG. 2.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE REFORM BILL.

The House having resumed the consideration of the Reform Bill in Committee,

The Marquis of SALISBURY moved to insert a clause allowing persons being duly registered electors to record their votes under proper regulations by means of voting-papers, both in counties and boroughs.

The Earl of DERBY gave his unqualified adhesion to the principle of the motion, believing that, with due safeguards, the use of voting-papers would enable the sick and the timid to give their votes without concealment, and free from improper influence and intimidation, whilst it would also greatly prevent the possibility of riot and disturbance, and diminish the cost of elections.

Earl DE GREY and RUPON acknowledged himself surprised at the announcement just made by the Premier. The whole point of the case lay in the details, and he hoped their Lordships would not sanction the principle without knowing something of the machinery by which the system was to be carried into effect. He was not at all satisfied with the working of voting-papers in the election of poor-law guardians; and he not only doubted whether their use would put a stop to bribery and intimidation, but he feared that it would rather afford facilities for illegal practices.

Lord Cairns, Lord De Ros, Lord Cloncurry, the Earl of Carnarvon, and Earl Fortescue all supported the motion; and Earl Granville opposed it.

On the Committee dividing, it was carried by 114 to 36, or with the large majority of 78.

The remaining clauses of the bill were then gone through, and, the House having resumed, the bill was ordered to be reported on Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IRISH UNIVERSITIES.

Mr. FAWCETT gave notice that, in consequence of the answer of the Chancellor of the Exchequer the previous day on the subject of University education in Ireland, he should submit a resolution, on going into Committee of Supply, to the effect that it was undesirable for the Government to advise Her Majesty to grant any charter to a Roman Catholic University, or to sanction any scheme affecting University education in Ireland, until Parliament had been afforded an opportunity of being consulted.

EX-GOVERNOR EYRE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated, in reply to Major Anson, that he was not aware of any proceedings, civil or criminal, pending against ex-Governor Eyre; and it was beyond his province to hazard an opinion as to what course the Government might take in the event of any further prosecution being instituted by the Jamaica Committee.

THE FAMINE IN ORISSA.

Mr. H. SEYMOUR called attention to the great mortality occasioned by the famine in Orissa last year, and, in doing so, contended that the blame for the terrible loss of life which took place on the occasion rested upon Sir Cecil Beadon, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The hon. member also moved for the production of papers relating to the subject.

Mr. SMOLLETT declared that such a calamity as the loss of 700,000 lives by famine, mainly through neglect, had not been known for 1800 years. In his view, it was a great crime; and the question was with whom the responsibility lay. Sir Cecil Beadon was principally responsible for the government of the province to the Governor-General of India, who had condoned his *laches*. During the whole period that Sir John Lawrence was at Simla (where he knew no more of what was passing around his capital than if he had been in California) he never moved from his apathetic attitude until he had received pressing orders from home. Not only, then, was Sir Cecil Beadon responsible, but the Governor-General also; and the House would not do its duty unless it took some serious notice of the disaster.

Mr. H. A. BRUCE warmly defended Sir Cecil Beadon, and vindicated his character, not only for administrative capacity but for humanity. The fact appeared to be that the system had broken down; and the right hon. gentleman urged that it would be unjust to visit the consequences on a public servant who, after thirty-two years' residence in India, was now returning home with shattered health and reputation assailed.

Mr. STANSFELD owned that a perusal of the papers already published inspired him with a very low estimate of the administrative capacity of those who, in view of a great national disaster, had indulged in commonplace theories of political economy to check action which might have saved thousands of lives, whose sacrifice now lay heavy at their doors.

Lord CRANBOURNE deprecated any attempt being made to divest individuals of the responsibility which properly belonged to them and to lay the blame upon a system. The whole question with respect to this frightful calamity was this—whether sufficient information had been conveyed to Sir Cecil Beadon to raise in his mind the fear or suspicion that a famine was impending over Orissa. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, seemed to think that the evidence of approaching starvation ought to have been overwhelming before it was necessary to take any precautions to avert it. This unhappy incredulity of disposition had led to much of the disaster which had ensued, although no doubt the political economy worshipped so devoutly by the Revenue Board was in part responsible.

Sir S. NORTHOTE, having vindicated the tone of the despatch in which he had censured Sir Cecil Beadon as firm, though moderate, reminded the House that that gentleman was no longer Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and that it would have been useless either to order his recall or to annul in such terms upon his conduct as would have compelled him to tender his resignation. His position was, however, one of great difficulty, and allowances, although not excuses, might be made for him. No blame of any kind attached to Sir John Lawrence; and so far as the Lieutenant-Governor was concerned all that could be said for him was that his agents had failed him in many important particulars. For their want of perception, attention, and energy no excuse, however, could be found.

The motion was then withdrawn, on the understanding that Mr. Otway was to move for the papers on a future occasion, as for an unopposed return.

MONDAY, AUG. 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE REFORM BILL.

On the bringing up of the report of amendments to the Reform Bill,

Earl RUSSELL called attention to the amendment of their Lordships, raising the lodger franchise from £10 to £15, and observed that the effect of this alteration would be, in London, to exclude the mass of working men from the franchise. Large numbers of skilled artisans occupied lodgings under £15 a year; and, not imagining that their Lordships seriously contemplated the disqualification of these persons, he moved that the words "fifteen pounds" be struck out of the bill, and "ten pounds" substituted for them.

The Earl of DERBY believed that the whole of the circumstances which had induced the Commons to place the lodger franchise at £10 had not been clearly put before their Lordships. The practical difference between £10 and £15, especially when the clear value was taken into consideration, was really so trifling that he thought their Lordships would do well to reconsider the question, and not to insist upon their amendment.

Lord CAIRNS, on whose motion the higher sum had been inserted in the bill, explained that when he made the proposition he was ignorant of the fact that already there had been a compromise on the subject in the House of Commons by the substitution of "clear yearly value" for "rental." Had he been aware of the circumstance, he should not have moved the amendment, and he was now quite ready to concur in the motion of Earl Russell.

After a few words from Lord SHAFTESBURY, "fifteen pounds" was struck out and "ten pounds" re-inserted in the bill.

A motion by Earl GRANVILLE, to omit the clause enabling students and graduates connected with the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, occupying chambers in the city of Oxford or the town of Cambridge, to vote for the city or borough, after a short discussion, was negatived without a division.

An amendment by Lord STRATHEDEN, to raise the occupation franchise in counties from the rateable value of £12 to a rental value of £20, was also rejected.

A clause, proposed by the Marquis of SALISBURY, containing the regulations for carrying into effect the system of voting-papers, was discussed at some length, and, after receiving certain verbal amendments, was added to the bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FACTORY ACTS EXTENSION BILL.

This bill was read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY—GREENWICH HOSPITAL, ETC.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. SEELY raised a discussion with regard to the excessive cost incurred by the country for the management of Greenwich Hospital, and founded a motion thereon that the expense was too great and might be reduced.

Mr. CORRY admitted that the expenditure on this account was very large, and announced that the Admiralty, impressed with the fact, had appointed a Committee of their own body to inquire into the subject.

The other speakers on the occasion were Mr. Childers, Mr. Candlish, Colonel Sykes, and Alderman Lusk.

Mr. SEELY then expressed himself satisfied with the statement of the First Lord and withdrew his motion.

Lord HENRY LENNOX, at the instance of Mr. Hanbury-Tracy, offered explanations relating to Mr. Henwood's proposal for converting line-of-battle ships into ranging monitors.

Another subject which led to discussion was the declaration of the Congress of Paris with respect to freedom from seizure of enemies' goods at sea in neutral bottoms.

The House went into Committee of Supply and passed the vote for Greenwich Hospital, &c.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE REFORM BILL.

The Reform Bill, after a short debate, having been read the third time,

The Earl of DERBY thanked their Lordships for the manner in which they had dealt with the Government proposals, and observed that during a Parliamentary experience of forty-five years he never recollected a measure of such importance being discussed with so little acerbity and party spirit, and he trusted that in the heat of debate he had neither said nor done ought to give the slightest offence to any of their Lordships. It was quite true that the bill was a great experiment, and, in some measure, a leap in the dark; but he had such confidence in the sound sense of his countrymen that he believed the extended franchise now conferred would place our institutions upon a firmer basis and increase the loyalty and contentment of the people.

The bill was then passed, and immediately afterwards returned to the House of Commons.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Poor-Law Board Bill was passed through Committee, and the Metropolitan Subways Bill read the second time. The Railway Guards' and Passengers' Communication Bill was opposed, on the motion for its third reading, by the Earl of LUCAN, and, after a brief discussion, the order was discharged and the bill withdrawn. The Agricultural Gangs Bill was read the third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

EXTRADITION TREATIES.

Mr. McCULLAGH TORRENS drew attention to the anomalous and unsatisfactory state of our extradition treaties with foreign Powers, which he exemplified by reference to the well-known case of Lamirande. What ought to be done was to pass an Act settling, once and for all, the principle on which these treaties should be based, and providing a reasonable time, say two months, as the period during which any man arrested at the instance of a foreign Government might claim the right to sue out a writ of Habeas Corpus. He had no objection to the appointment of a committee next Session for the purpose of considering the whole question of the extradition treaties.

A discussion followed, in which Mr. Layard, Mr. Neate, Sir F. Goldsmid, Mr. Watkin, Mr. Mill, and Lord Stanley took part. The outcome was that Lord Stanley promised that next year there should be a Committee appointed to inquire into the whole subject.

THE SIMLA COURT-MARTIAL.

Mr. BRETT called attention to the Simla court-martial scandal, and moved that Captain Jervis be reinstated.

A discussion followed, in the course of which Mr. OTWAY suggested the amendment of the motion, so that the prayer of the address to the Crown should be simply that effect might be given to the recommendation to mercy by the court-martial.

The debate was continued by Sir S. Northote, Major Jervis, and Colonel Sykes, and eventually, Mr. Brett having withdrawn his motion in favour of the amendment, the House divided on the latter, and it was negatived by 66 to 48.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

UNIFORMITY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. FAWCETT having moved the third reading of the Uniformity Act Amendment Bill,

Mr. BENTINCK proposed that the third reading should be on that day three months. A division took place on the motion for the third reading, with the following result:—Ayes, 34; noes, 41. The bill was accordingly lost.

THE LIBEL BILL.

Sir C. O'LOUGHLIN moved the third reading of the Libel Bill, to which Mr.

AYRTON objected on the motion for its third reading, on the ground that, instead of relieving the press, it would really detract from its just influence by lessening the sense of responsibility under which it was now conducted.

Mr. NEWDEGATE also spoke against the bill, which, in his opinion, contained a most vicious principle. He admitted that the English press was tainted in a highly honourable spirit; but if it were relieved of the responsibility which now attached to it, the consequence would be to deteriorate its general character.

Mr. HENLEY supported the bill, which, he argued, would prevent men of straw and needy attorneys from bringing speculative actions against the press for imaginary grievances.

The bill also received the approval of the Attorney-General; but Mr. Mr. Whalley and Mr. Neate declared themselves in favour of its rejection. On a division, the amendment was negatived by 79 to 18. The bill was then read the third time and passed.

INCREASE OF THE EPISCOPATE BILL.

The Increase of the Episcopate Bill having been committed, Mr. AYRTON moved as a proviso to the first clause that no scheme should be submitted for confirmation to her Majesty in Council until there had been paid or transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, by voluntary gift or bequest, moneys, securities, or estates, of which the annual proceeds should be sufficient to pay the income of the Bishop and other officers appointed under such scheme, and all other charges and expenses of carrying the same into effect. The proviso being agreed to, clause 2, which enacted that the income of the new bishops should not be less than the minimum of that of the present Bishops, was, on the motion of Mr. Ayton, struck out, as was also a clause which provided that the newly-created bishops should succeed to seats in the House of Lords. For the latter a clause was substituted, at the instance of Sir R. Palmer, to the effect that the number of Lords spiritual in the Upper House should not be increased.

After undergoing some verbal amendments, the bill was passed through Committee.

THURSDAY, AUG. 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS. CHURCH RATES.

The Earl of MORLEY moved the second reading of the Church Rates Abolition Bill, and urged upon their Lordships the great importance of settling the question, and thereby putting an end to the agitation, which would be otherwise sure to spread.

Lord DEAMERE moved as an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day three months. By passing this bill their Lordships would be committing an act of manifest injustice. They would be giving way to a minority in a very objectionable manner, by abolishing a custom which had existed from time immemorial, and not providing something in substitution.

Lord ST. LEONARDS supported the amendment, which, after a debate, was carried by a majority of 82 to 24.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ABYSSINIAN PRISONERS.

Mr. H. SEYMOUR asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he had received any information relating to the Abyssinian prisoners.

Lord STANLEY said he had received information, dated July 20, that the prisoners had been separated from the main body of King Theodore's army; but he thought it was too early yet to consider the prisoners liberated.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

On consideration of the Lords' amendment to this bill,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER remarked that hon. members must feel that the House of Lords had not challenged any of the important principles of the measure; and they could, therefore, come to the consideration of the amendments without bias. He would for a moment pause to illustrate the sentiment he had expressed as to the conduct of the Upper House in reference to the main principle of the bill—viz., the borough franchise. Upon that subject, with one exception of no important character—a point upon which a division was taken in this House—with the exception of the Lords having altered the copyhold franchise—the Lords had accepted the borough franchise. The lodger franchise had undergone a considerable change, but their Lordships had reconsidered their determination, and ultimately coincided with the figure agreed to by the House of Commons, thereby evincing a cordial desire to maintain unanimity. With reference to the copyhold and leasehold franchise, the Government were of opinion that the House should accept the decision of the House of Lords, and he would move to that effect at the proper time. The next point deserving consideration was the introduction of a new clause, and the reintroduction of a clause which had been rejected in the House of Commons. Both those clauses referred to the same subject. The first, referring to the representation of minorities, had been opposed by the Government, but he was bound to say that in the House of Lords the proposition had been carried by a large majority, and he was of opinion that the House of Commons should defer to the opinion of the Upper House on this matter, although he could not say it had his own concurrence. The next clause—that providing for voting-papers—was originally contained in the bill, and he must say that according to his view the system of voting-papers would lead practically to an enormous increase of the constituencies, for by them many would record their votes who would not otherwise do so. He need hardly say, therefore, that the Government recommended the House to agree to this amendment. He admitted that it might open a way to corruption and bribery, but every precaution had been taken to prevent a thing which was so much to be deprecated. He thought the House would feel, generally speaking, that it would be for the interest of the country that the amendments should be agreed to; but if there was a difference of opinion an opportunity would be offered for their discussion, and he would impress upon the House the anxiety of the Government that, in discussing the amendments, the House would proceed to their consideration in an impartial and conciliatory spirit.

Mr. GLADSTONE remarked that the right hon. gentleman had advocated the amendments with an animation which showed sincerity. He would pass over in respectful silence the conciliatory attitude of the House of Lords, regarding which the less that was said the better. Having expressed gratification at the courage and decision shown by Lord Derby in respect to the lodger franchise, Mr. Gladstone, in conclusion, suggested that the House should proceed to discuss the amendments *seriatim* without expressing general approval or otherwise.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER objected to the alteration in the ratepaying clause, which now included the borough rate. He accordingly moved that the amendment of the Lords be disagreed with.

Mr. G. HARDY said the object of the House of Lords was to render intelligible the interpretation clause. It was simply to rate for the municipal corporation, and did not include the sewage, lighting, and similar rates.

Mr. HIBBERT complained that it would make a difference between the electors above and below £10. The amendment was made under a misapprehension.

Mr. GLADSTONE, Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY, and others having objected to the amendment,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he would not press it.

The motion to disagree with the amendment was then carried.

Sir R. PALMER next moved to disagree with the following amendment:—Page 2, line 29, after "house," insert "or being one and the same set of chambers or rooms not separately rated."

The House then divided—

For the amendment	253
Against it	204
Majority for the amendment	59

The numbers were received with cheers.

On the motion that the Lords' amendment limiting the number of votes for the city of London to three, the House divided, when the numbers were—

For the amendment	252
Against it	188
Majority for the amendment	64

Several of the Lords' amendments, which were mostly matters of detail, were agreed to without a division.

On the question of voting-papers, the House divided, when there were—

For the amendment	206
Against it	258
Majority against it	52

The announcement was received with loud Opposition cheers.

Several minor amendments were afterwards agreed to, and the reconsideration of the bill was concluded.

THE HARVEST IN MINNESOTA will allow her to export 15,000,000 bushel of grain.

ARE DRAMATIC CRITICS PLAYWRIGHTS?—There is a very prevalent notion fostered by many journals which abuse the tone and style of contemporary dramatic criticism, that nearly all the critics on the metropolitan press are playwrights, whose want of independence is mainly due to the dealings they have with managers. This is a mistake—and, more, it is an injustice. With two or three exceptions, our dramatic critics are men who never write plays for the stage, or for the piecemeal holes of a manager's desk. They enter into no competition with the authors they are called upon to criticise; and if their judgment is biased in any way it is by personal more than by pecuniary influences. Mr. Dumphy, the dramatic critic of the *Morning Post*, is not a playwright, and Mr. Desmond Ryan, who represents the *Standard and Herald*, and is as musical as well as a dramatic critic, never wrote a drama or an opera. Mr. E. L. Blanchard, of the *Daily Telegraph*, supplies pantomimes very regularly to Drury Lane Theatre, but does no other dramatic work. Mr. F. G. Tomlins, who represents the *Morning Advertiser*, wrote a tragedy called "Garcia; or the Noble Error," many years ago, but has never repeated the error; and Mr. J. Hollingshead, who writes the dramatic notices for the *Daily News*, is the author of one farce, produced in 1858, and has never written another. The *Pall Mall Gazette* is represented by Mr. G. H. Lewis, and the *Globe* by Dr. Granville, both unconnected with stage writing.—From the "Broadway," No. 1.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1867.

THE ORISSA FAMINE.

UNTIL within a comparatively recent period few people in England took much interest in Indian affairs, and even now it is difficult to obtain attention to the concerns of our Oriental empire either from Parliament or the general public. An Indian debate is pretty sure to empty the benches of the House of Commons, and newspaper articles on India are generally skipped by the reader. This indifference is much to be deplored, because, for good or for evil, we wield enormous power over the destinies of the teeming millions of India, and because events are continually occurring in that region calculated to compromise the character and prestige of Great Britain. Passing over the great mutiny of 1857, which, one would have thought, might well have permanently fixed attention on affairs in that country, military and administrative scandals are of such frequent recurrence that, for our own credit's sake, it is indispensably needful that a watchful eye should be kept by the British Parliament and people upon the affairs of India and the manner in which they are conducted. The two latest scandals from the East are, of course, the Simla court-martial and the famine in Orissa, both of which have occupied the attention of the House of Commons within the last few days, though, we are sorry to say, the discussions on these topics were not so numerously attended as they ought to have been.

Of the Mansfield-Jervis affair we have already spoken; but the Orissa famine still claims consideration, for it is, perhaps, the most important as well as most calamitous event that has occurred in India since the Sepoy mutiny. No less than 700,000 of our fellow-subjects have perished from famine in that province during one year—1866—and that, too, while abundance of food was within easy distance, and, but for a grievous default of duty on the part of the officials, might have been readily conveyed to the famishing districts. Such a terrible calamity, allowed to run its course without let or hindrance, demands the most searching investigation; and it is meet that the delinquent officials should be visited with such a measure of punishment as shall be calculated to make their compeers and successors more careful for the time to come. Upon the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Cecil Beadon, all the evidence seems to throw the blame primarily and mainly. He visited the districts affected at an early period of the calamity, and while there was yet time to take steps to meet the emergency and stay the ravages of famine; he received warnings of the state of things that was impending; he had agents through whom he could have obtained the fullest information; and yet he determined to do nothing. We are not disposed to visit too heavily upon an old and tried public servant the sins of omission of which he has been guilty; and it is some excuse for Sir Cecil that his health was at the time broken. With an enfeebled frame, he may have been physically unequal to the task of grappling with so grave an emergency. But then he ought not to have retained his post when incapable of discharging the duties attached to it. He should either have resigned at once or delegated his authority to more vigorous hands.

It is true, also, that Sir Cecil Beadon and his subordinates may have been misled to some extent by the fact that, famines being of periodical occurrence in some part or other of India, the cry of "Wolf, wolf!" has sometimes been raised when there was little real justification for it. We know how such a cry operates among ourselves, and ought, therefore, to make some allowance for the incredulity—even supineness—of Indian officials. Some years ago, tales of "agricultural distress" were so dinned into the public ear, without real cause, that no one paid heed to them. Irish famines are so often brought before our notice that we are apt to doubt their existence. Hop-growers are so regularly represented as ruined every year, and yet still go on growing hops, that it is difficult to believe that the ruin is genuine. So it may have been in India as regarded the scarcity of food in Orissa. It was not deemed so serious as was alleged and as events have proved that it really was. Hence the inaction of Sir Cecil Beadon and his colleagues in the government of the province. They thought it was a renewal of the cry of "wolf" when there was no wolf that had often been heard before. But these things are only feeble excuses at the best;

and ought never for a moment to be admitted as justifications. It was the duty of all concerned in the government of Bengal to make sure that the allegation of impending famine in Orissa was either well founded or the reverse; and, finding it real, to take action to stay its course. This they did not do. Nay, they even refused aid in money when offered from this country. A fund was formed at the Mansion House for the relief of the distress in Orissa, and the money transmitted was returned, with an intimation that extraneous aid was unnecessary. It is difficult to acquit Sir Cecil Beadon and his subordinates of blame for so acting, when the smallest amount of inquiry must have sufficed to show that human beings were perishing in thousands from lack of food within a few days' journey of Calcutta.

It is alleged that the officials acted in accordance with the doctrines of political economy in withholding aid from the famishing thousands of Orissa. But this is a libel upon the science, for we know of no rule of political economy that declares it right to let men perish for lack of food when by no effort of their own can they obtain it. The members of the Bengal Council must be very shallow political economists indeed if they hold any such doctrine. If food can be obtained for honest labour, and men will not labour for it, it may not be unreasonable that they should be left to endure the consequences of their indolence. But it is utterly unreasonable, and at direct variance with the genuine principles of political economy, as well as of humanity, that men should be left to starve when by no effort in their power to make can they obtain the means of living. When people are in such a strait, external aid must and ought to be afforded them; and the culpability of the Bengal officials lies in this, that they held their own hands and discouraged action in others, when the fact that help was needed was—or might easily have been—made patent to the most obtuse among them.

There was also an attempt made in the course of the debate on this subject to resuscitate the old tactics of blaming "the system;" that had broken down; hence all the mischief: no one was culpable. But this sort of excuse cannot be allowed. A system is nothing apart from those who work it; and Lord Cranbourne uttered a solemn truth and enunciated a valuable rule of government when he protested against shifting responsibility from individuals and putting it upon an impalpable myth called "system." Let us have no more shuffling of this sort; let every man in the public service be held personally responsible for the management of the operations he undertakes to conduct; and then there will be an end of such fiascos as those of the Crimean War and this wholesale starvation in Orissa.

But, whatever may have been the motives and influences that actuated Sir Cecil Beadon and his colleagues, it is now certain that a lamentable sacrifice of human life has been the result of their course of action—or rather of inaction; and that the prestige of British Government in India has been grievously impaired in consequence. And this loss of prestige, especially when so caused we can ill afford. Our hold upon the affections of the people of India is as yet but partially established; our sole moral right to rule India at all is that we can do so better than either her native Princes or than any other Power whatever. When we fail to justify that assumption—when we abdicate or neglect the duties incumbent upon us in our position in Hindoostan—when we show ourselves unequal to an emergency of common, indeed of periodic, recurrence—when we prove either too indolent or too callous-hearted to grapple with a calamity known as likely to happen, and which ought, therefore, to be calculated upon;—when we do these things, we forfeit our right, as we shall certainly lose our power, to govern the millions of India; and the sooner we resign the task to abler hands the better will it be for all concerned.

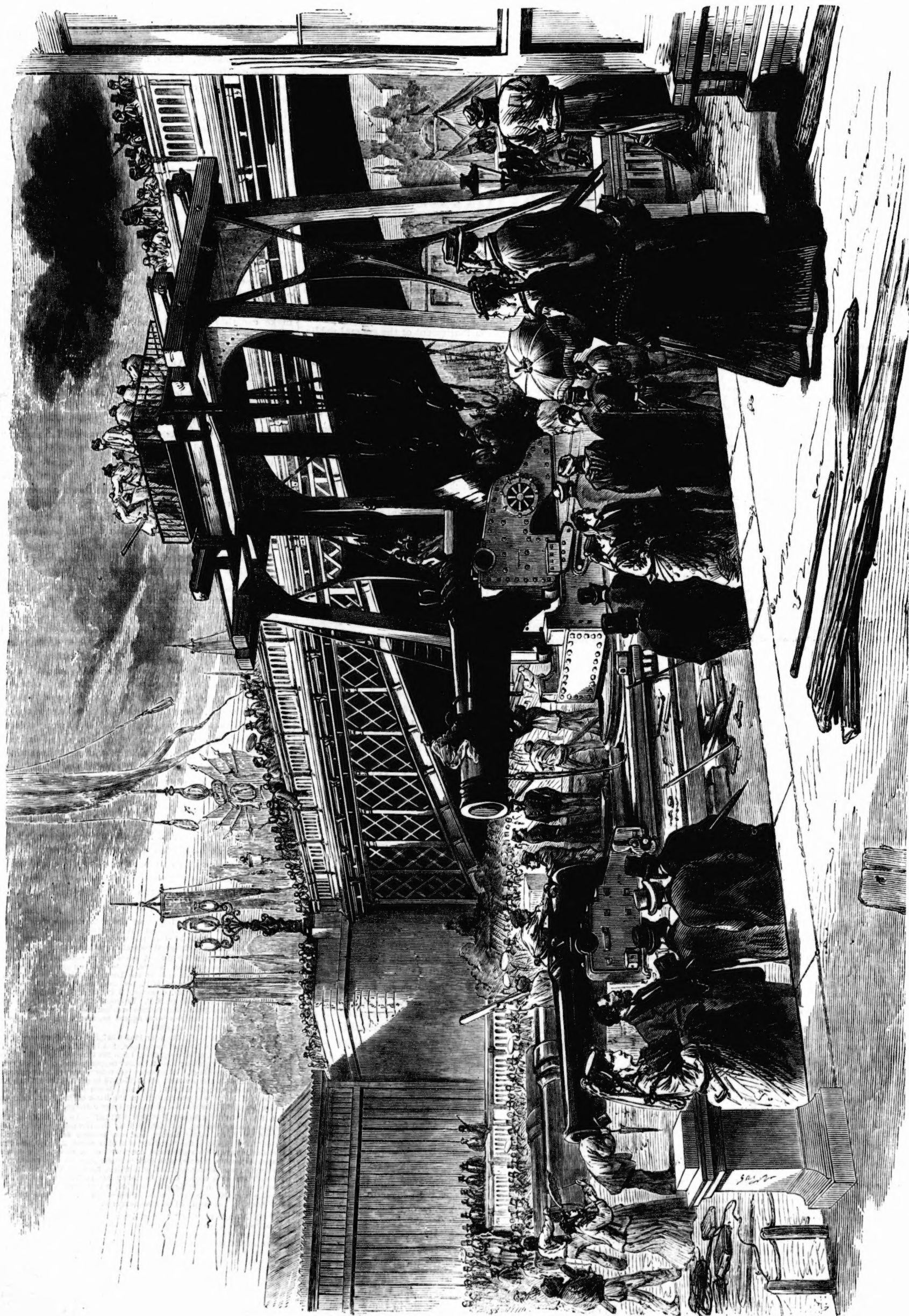
THE PEOPLE OF ST. LOUIS are about to erect a bridge over the Mississippi. The work, if carried out according to the plan, will be the largest structure of its kind in the world; and it will certainly be of enormous advantage to the great central city of America.

NATIONAL REFORM UNION.—A meeting was held, on Wednesday evening, in the Hanover-square Rooms, under the auspices of the National Reform Union, to protest against the Lords' amendments to the Reform Bill. Mr. McCallagh Torrens, M.P., presided, and spoke extremely well in opening the business. Mr. Goschen, M.P.; Mr. T. Hughes, M.P.; Mr. Trevelyan, M.P.; Sir J. Gray, M.P.; Professor Rogers, and other gentlemen, addressed the meeting. Resolutions condemning voting-papers and the representation of minorities were agreed to, and a petition against these devices of the Lords was adopted.

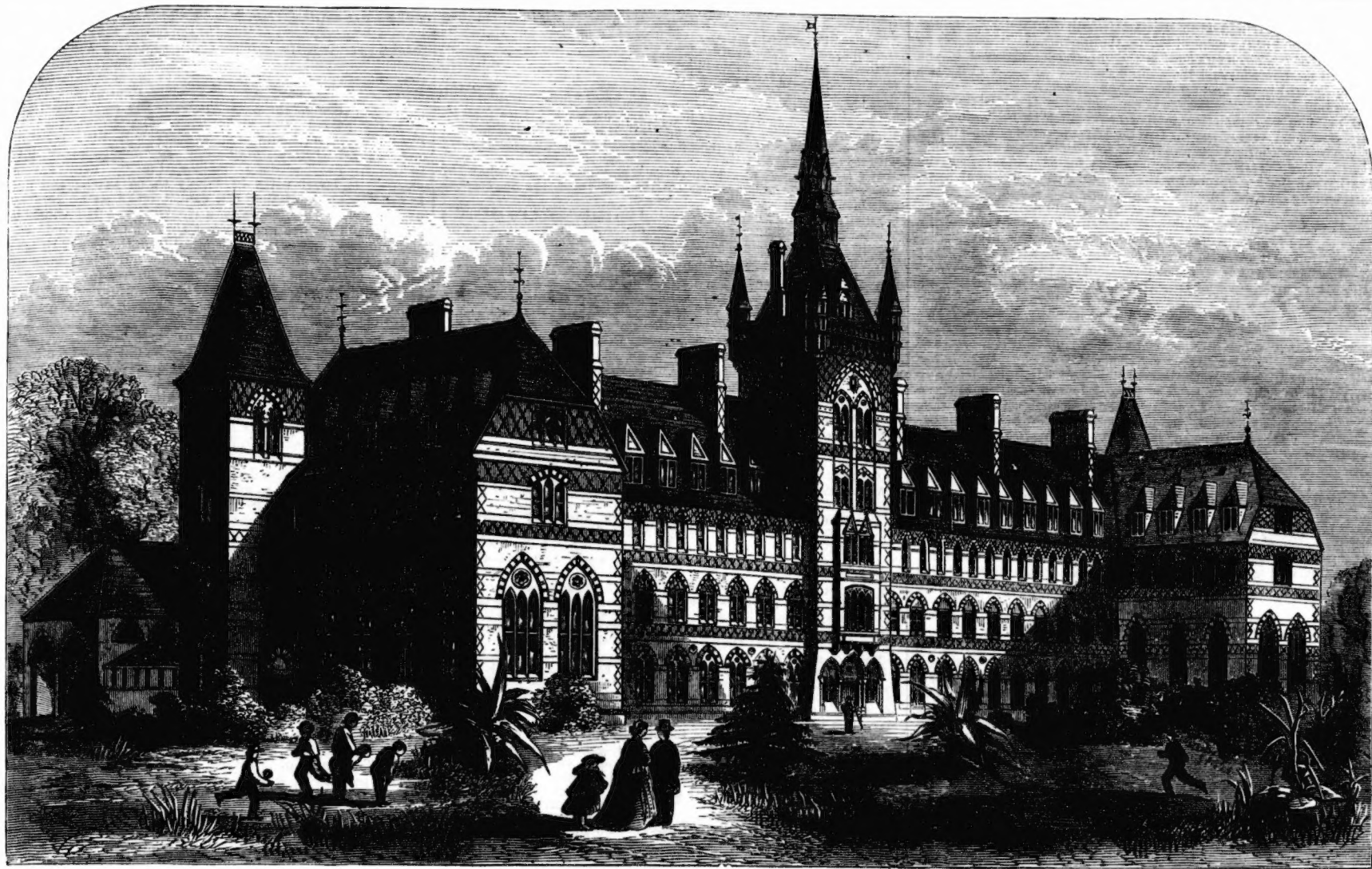
COINAGE OF 1866.—In the year 1866 4,047,288 sovereigns were coined at the Mint, and 2,058,776 half-sovereigns, 914,760 florins, 4,989,600 shillings, 5,140,080 sixpences, 4158 fourpences, 1,905,288 threepences, 4752 silver twopences, 7920 silver pence; also 9,999,360 copper pence, 2,508,800 halfpence, and 3,584,000 farthings. Altogether, therefore, money was coined at the Mint in 1866 to the amount of £5,076,676 in gold, £493,416 in silver, and £50,624 in copper; or, £5,620,716 in all. Worn silver coin of the nominal value of £115,000 was purchased from the Bank of England, for re-coining, and a loss of £15,648 was occasioned by its re-coining.

A RELIC OF THE FIRST FRENCH EMPIRE.—An old soldier of the First Empire, named Darroy, has just died at the Invalides, aged ninety. He served in Egypt under Kieber, and was present as sentinel during the execution of Soliman, the murderer of that General, at Cairo, in June, 1800. Soliman first had his right hand consumed on a slow fire, and was then placed on an iron hurdle, with embers under it, where he remained living for four hours. Being tortured with thirst, he asked to drink, but this was refused him, as it might have shortened his sufferings. Darroy, who was then a volunteer in the Egyptian service, was, however, touched with compassion, and gave the dying man a glass of water. Soliman drank it off at one draught, and then fell back and expired.

FIRE PREVENTION.—The Select Committee of the House of Commons on Fire Protection has issued its report. The principal recommendation is:—To prevent the frequency of fires from the faulty construction of buildings, there should be a General Building Act for every town or place in the United Kingdom having a municipal corporation, improvements commission, or local board of health, similar in its provisions to the Metropolitan Building Act and to the Building Acts of Liverpool. It should be a standing Order of the House that every unopposed water bill providing that the supply need not be constant or at high pressure should be referred to the referees to inquire and report whether constant service should not be required. Wilful fire-raising the Committee find to be traceable to several sources:—First, to gangs of men who make a trade of it to defraud the insurance companies; second, to individuals who have been unfortunate in business, and who cannot meet the claims made on them; third, to porters in warehouses, to conceal theft of goods made by them in the warehouses; fourth, to malice.



LA'GE GUNS FOR THE FRENCH MINISTER OF MARINE'S DEPARTMENT SHOWN ON THE QUAI D'ORSAY.



LONDON COLLEGE, ISLEWORTH.—(MESSRS. NORTON AND MOSLEY, ARCHITECTS.)

LONDON COLLEGE, ISLEWORTH.

THE International Education Society, of whose London College we give an illustration, was established a few years ago, under the auspices of the late Mr. Cobden, who continued its active and efficient president till his death. Associated with him were a number of influential and liberal-minded gentlemen, who proposed to found a group of colleges in Europe, all carrying on the same system of education, and animated by a common spirit. Thus pupils, on going from one country to another, would not only have a better opportunity of becoming acquainted with each other, and of

losing all the illiberal and contracted views that generally distinguish those who never travel beyond the limits of their native land; but they would also be able to carry on their studies without interruption, and to acquire a practical knowledge of each other's language and customs. At the same time, the system of education to be carried on was to be in keeping with the wants and spirit of the age, and adapted to educate alike the various faculties, moral, intellectual, and physical, with which we are endowed.

At Mr. Cobden's death, and while the society was yet in its infancy, Mr. A. W. Foulton, the treasurer, was appointed chairman,

and it is mainly to his liberality and indefatigable exertions that the society owes its present prosperous position. It was resolved to begin at once with the London College, and as a proof of the earnestness of their design that it should be a seminary of the highest class, the board of directors appointed Dr. L. Schmitz, late Rector of the High School of Edinburgh, Head Master. Classical scholars therefore have a guarantee that their favourite studies will not be neglected at this college, or occupy merely the subordinate place they would do in a so-called utilitarian scheme of education. Although considerably less time is to be devoted to them than they



GREAT CONFLAGRATION IN ROYDON: THE RUINS.

generally occupy, it is expected that by the use of a healthy and rational method, and by commencing at a somewhat later period than usual, sound and high scholarship will be attained. A distinctive feature of the college, besides the importance it attaches to the study of modern languages, is the prominence assigned to the study of mathematics and the natural sciences, subjects which are nearly ignored in our leading English schools.

The building of the college was commenced in June of last year; and, pending its completion, temporary premises in the immediate neighbourhood were secured. It is a gratifying proof of the success of the society's efforts hitherto that these premises are already full, and that there are numerous applications for admission when the new college shall be opened for the reception of pupils next term, commencing on Sept. 18.

The college, which is situated at Spring-grove, near Hounslow, stands upon a pleasant elevation, about 80 ft. above the valley of the Thames, and is designed in the style of the thirteenth century. It is built of yellow brick, with bands and patterns of red. The dressings of the windows and doors are of Bath stone, and the roof is covered with slate patterns. The principal entrance is in the centre, and over it will rise a lofty tower covered by a pyramidal roof with rich parapets and angle pinnacles, a handsome bay window of two stories being carried up above the entrance doorway. This entrance-hall leads to corridors running right and left, from which access to the principal rooms is obtained, the school-rooms being placed at the ends and forming wings, the pupils' staircases adjoining and being carried up to form towers. The ground-floor is devoted to classrooms, reception-rooms, &c. The dining-hall, with corridor at side, connects the front building with the offices. The first floor is devoted to the secretary's room, library, upper part of dining-halls, and school-room. The second and third floors are devoted to the boys' dormitories, each dormitory being distinct and separated by a partition 7 ft. high. The whole of the staircases are of stone, with elaborate balustrades of wrought ironwork. The portion of the building just completed has cost £15,000. Accommodation is provided for 150 boys.

Schools in connection with the London College exist at Godesberg, near Bonn (on the Rhine), and at Chatou, near Paris, under Dr. Baskerville and M. P. Barrère respectively, where the pupils receive the same training, and at the same charges, as at Spring-grove.

GREAT FIRE AT ROTHERHITHE.

A DESTRUCTIVE fire occurred, late on Friday night week, in the neighbourhood of Rotherhithe New-road, Old Kent-road. It commenced in a large factory belonging to Messrs. Lambe and Story, paraffin-wax refiners. The premises covered a considerable space of ground, consisting of a warehouse of three floors (160 ft. in length and 60 ft. in breadth), a presshouse containing eight hydraulic presses, filter-rooms, stores, engine and boiler house, and other buildings. The stock of paraffin in the place was very heavy, some hundreds of barrels of it being piled up in stacks in the open yard in front of the works; while at the back, under cover, were barrels of petroleum, naphtha, and paraffin stacked to the roof, and some thousands of gallons were in tanks and pans in the other parts of the premises undergoing the process of refining by heat for producing the manufactured article of wax. As may readily be conceived, the manufacture was one of most hazardous description; but it is only right to state that the firm adopted every possible precaution to guard against fire and explosion. At night-time, for the works were in operation day and night, the workpeople were not permitted to take an open light into the factory on any pretence whatever; they were provided with Davy lamps, such as are used by colliers in coal-mines, while various rooms were lit up by gas-lamps fixed outside the buildings. But, notwithstanding all these precautions, the Davy lamp proved ineffectual, for as one of the workpeople was passing by a pan of heated naphtha with one of these lamps in his hand the vapour from the naphtha ignited, and the man was instantly enveloped in a blaze. Fortunately, though much burnt about the hands and face, he got out of the room and called to his fellow-workmen that the place was on fire. The workmen came to his assistance, but to prevent the fire spreading was found to be impossible. Indeed, the flames shot through the various departments with such rapidity that the men, to save their lives, were compelled to retreat. The destruction of the factory was very speedy, but the fire raged the whole night with terrible vehemence. The brigade received the first intimation of its outbreak by the reflection in the sky. A large detachment of the force at once turned out, and proceeded with all expedition in the direction of the light, and on reaching the spot found not only Messrs. Lambe's factory and warehouse in flames, but several adjoining premises. Among them were the drying-shed warehouse of Messrs. Moore, leather-dressers, and three dwelling-houses in Alexandra-terrace, in the main road. Most of the steam fire-engines had steam up when they arrived, and were ready for immediate action; but for a long while no supply of water could be procured for them to work from, consequently they remained idle. As soon as they were got to work the firemen dashed in with their branches, and vigorously exerted themselves to stay the progress of the flames. They managed eventually to stop the fire extending beyond the last-mentioned premises; but to arrest its rapid progress in the paraffin works was beyond the power of the brigade; indeed, it appeared that the torrents of water thrown on the flames only added to their fury, for by twelve o'clock the barrels of paraffin, petroleum, and naphtha stacked in the front and back of the burning works shared in the general conflagration, and loud explosions were incessant. Soon after twelve o'clock the back wall of the works was blown out by an explosion, and the flaming paraffin flowed out in a stream, and spread over the ground of a market gardener and down a brook, where it set fire to and partly destroyed a wooden bridge. To prevent the flaming liquid being carried down into the river and endangering the shipping at Deptford, the firemen threw a dam of earth across the stream, which had the desired effect, though the paraffin overflowed the banks of the stream, and was burning fiercely for hours afterwards. Three of the brigade nearly lost their lives by the falling of one of the tanks of paraffin. The men were up a gateway leading to the burning premises, directing their branch jets on to the fire, when the paraffin rushed down upon them in a stream. They ran out into the road, where their comrades threw water on them and put out the fire, but they were much burnt about the face and hands, and had to be taken to Guy's Hospital. The paraffin also overflowed the road and along the gutters to a considerable distance. Some seven or eight engines continued playing the whole night, and it was not till five o'clock on Saturday morning that the conflagration was wholly subdued. The firm of Messrs. Lambe is insured in the Royal Fire Office, the other sufferers in the Sun and Queen offices; but the inmates of three houses gutted by the fire in Alexandra-terrace were not insured.

THE YELVERTON CASE.—"With pain," Miss Longworth states in the *Times* that another seven years' war will in all probability be the consequence of the late decision, the next step assuming the form in Scotland of a "reduction of judgment," that course being advised *per preference* from four or five others competent under the circumstances. "Permit me to say," she adds, "that seven years, during which period this action has been pending against me, not of my seeking, is really but a trifle in Scotch causes. The 'Dalrymple' case lasted fifteen years, and the great Shedd case, I believe, lived out over thirty sessions. To my sorrow I have to record the fact of being compelled to strive on, for the alternative is a Charybdis of equally fearful aspect—namely, remaining the wife of a man in a ring fence only, a wife in Ireland and not in Scotland. The husband, having cleared the hurdles, finds himself safe on the other side by the aid of a second marriage and the discretion of a Court who have refused to discover the spot where he had earthed himself. My appeal was simply to have him produced. Would that the Court, in the wisdom of their discretion, had informed me whether, if I committed bigamy, it would free me from my first marriage with Major Yelverton, and if a second husband, during the lifetime of the first, would be considered as a third party, whose interests could protect me from any disagreeable inquiries from a Procurator Fiscal or the like functionary! It is a kind of dreary comfort to me to be the pivot upon which the future laws for the good of my fellow-creatures should turn. I accept the position you assign me, but I must not flinch or crumble until my task, hard though it be, is accomplished."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, it is expected, will leave Marlborough House about the 16th, and pay a visit to Wiesbaden. The Prince and Princess will probably remain on the Continent about a couple of months, and then return to London.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, now on his travels, attained the twenty-third year of his age on Tuesday, having been born on Aug. 6, 1844. The occasion was celebrated at Windsor and in the metropolis with the customary official demonstrations.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA, Count Bismarck, and Baron von Goltz, Prussian Minister in Paris, are now at Ems. General von Roon, Prussian Minister of War, is in Munich. The Emperor Napoleon will stay two days at Salzburg with the Emperor of Austria.

THE SULTAN entered the Bosphorus on Wednesday morning, followed by nearly sixty steamers, which went to the entrance of the Bosphorus to meet him.

THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA has accepted the patronage of the exhibition of articles and apparatus for the wounded on the field of battle, and has sent a contribution of 3000*l.* in aid of that international work.

LORD CLINTON has accepted the office of Under Secretary of State for India, rendered vacant by the appointment of Sir James Fergusson to the under secretaryship of the Home Office.

SIR ROBERT KANE is about to resign the office of President of Queen's College, Cork, having elected to hold that of permanent Head of the New College of Science in Dublin.

ADMIRAL PERSANO is stated in some of the Paris journals to have become insane.

M. GUIZOT is at present engaged, at his residence of Val Richer, upon the third volume of his "*Méditations Religieuses*."

MR. MILLAIS is engaged in painting a picture of Rosalind and Celia in the forest of Arden.

SCHERZL, a Bohemian linguist, only twenty-three years old, is said to speak thirty languages.

MR. ARTHUR SKETCHLEY will sail in the *Persia* for America at the end of the month.

MISS AUGUSTA J. EVANS has received the degree of Mistress of English Literature from the Baltimore Female College.

THE REV. W. G. CAMPBELL, a Wesleyan missionary stationed at Athlone, has been stoned at the village of Granard.

THE HONOUR OF KNIGHTHOOD has been conferred on Mr. Henry Thompson, surgeon to the King of the Belgians and Knight of the Order of Leopold.

SIR R. PHILLIMORE, the new Dean of Arches, took his seat for the first time on Wednesday; and one of the earliest cases brought before him was that concerning the "*Ritualism* at St. Alban's, Holborn." As the Dean was one of the counsel in the case, it was arranged that he should be assisted by Dr. Twiss. The trial will not take place till October next.

THE LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET to Ministers on Wednesday evening was a brilliant affair. The attendance was large, and the speeches long and something out of the common. The Earl of Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer were, of course, the principal orators. In comparison with Mr. Disraeli, the Earl of Derby was modest and quiet. Mr. Disraeli, however, could not restrain an outburst of wild rejoicing over what he called the destruction of the monopoly of the Liberals in the matter of Reform.

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT has sent instructions to Ancona, ordering all the war stores there to be removed to the arsenal of Venice, so that the port of the former town may be entirely devoted to commercial uses.

SIGNOR MARIO is about to start as a ballad vocalist. He is to head a company of artists who will commence a provincial tour towards the end of September. The novelty of the enterprise will be the spectacle of Mario singing the standard English ballads—"Good-by, Sweetheart, Good-by," and others of a similar character.

A MAN NAMED SORRELL has been arrested at Washington, charged with an intention to blow up the Capitol when the members of Congress were assembled.

AN AMERICAN PAPER speaks of a project to construct a tunnel from the New to the Old World, at a cost of £500,000,000!

SEVENTY PERSONS lost their lives by an explosion of firedamp in a coal-pit at Ostrau, Moravia, on July 30.

THE EMBARGO laid on Victor Hugo's dramatic works is being gradually removed. The *Gaîté* announces that it will shortly play "*Le Roi s'amuse*."

A YOUNG SINGER, of whom many good things are said—Mlle. Balbi—has made her first appearance at the Théâtre Lyrique in "*Martha*." There, too, another young artist of promise, Mlle. de Vries, has reappeared.

THE LORD MAYOR has determined to apportion the £2500, the gift of the Sultan, among such of the humane institutions as deal more immediately with the homeless and destitute poor, rather than attempt to distribute it himself among individuals.

M. ANSPACH, the Burgomaster of Brussels, has forwarded through Colonel Loyd-Lindsay the sum of £426 9*s.* 6*d.*, as a donation to the Anglo-Belgian Société de Bienfaisance in London. This sum is given by the members of the Belgian Garde Civile who took part in the recent expedition to England, in token of their appreciation of the cordial welcome they received in this country.

A FAVOURABLE CHANGE has taken place in the health of Mr. Charles Kean, who has been for some time past on a visit at Court House, near Taunton. He is suffering from a total prostration of the nervous system, brought on by overwork and excitement.

A SERIOUS FAMINE is anticipated in Algeria. Several years of bad crops and two visits of locusts have brought the inhabitants to the verge of ruin.

THE USE OF VELOCIPEDS is becoming more and more frequent in Paris. Many of the amateurs who are fond of this sort of violent exercise have selected the vicinity of the cascade in the Bois de Boulogne, where they may be seen any morning, from nine till eleven, displaying their skill.

RICCIOTTI GARIBALDI has fought a duel with M. Brenna, editor of a Florence journal; both parties were slightly wounded. M. Brenna had written something offensive about Garibaldi.

A WATERSPOUT burst over the village of Palazzolo, near Udine, in Italy, last week, and did great damage. Not fewer than thirty houses were destroyed and seventy damaged. Ten persons were killed and twenty-eight injured by the falling buildings. Out of 1500 inhabitants, upwards of 400 are without an asylum.

AN ENGLISHMAN NAMED CHEYRE, trading in the Pelow Islands, South Seas, was recently killed by the natives on the pretext that he had been supplying arms to a hostile tribe. H.M.S. *Peregrine* was sent on a mission of vengeance, landed a force, and executed the King, making his own people act as his executioners.

THE GOVERNMENT have removed some of the restrictions upon the importation of cattle from Holland. They have, in fact, opened the provinces of Zealand, Overysel, and that part of North Holland north of the Y. Further, the restrictions on cattle carried by the Sambre and Meuse Railway through the province of Limburg are removed.

AN AUDACIOUS ROBBERY was committed, on Saturday, at the Exhibition, in the Swedish section—a quantity of pearls, valued at from £1000 to £1200, having been stolen in the open day. For some days previously the inspectors had warned the owner that his glass case was not properly secured; but he had not, however, paid any attention to the notice.

MR. WILLIAM CRAWSHAY, the well-known ironmaster, of Merthyr Tydvil, expired, at his seat, Caversham House, near Reading, on Sunday night, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. For a considerable period Mr. Crawshay and his family have been leading members of the iron trade in Wales; but during the last few years the deceased had resided at Caversham House, and latterly his health had given way.

A CARICATURE has been published at Matamoros which represents Uncle Sam lying flat on his back, with Canada underneath him, and his head in his Russian purchase, taking an ice drink, his legs cramped up by a rickety fence, named Mexico. Uncle Sam, meditatively, says he will have to stretch out his legs directly. The picture tickles the Texans amazingly.

THE AMALGAMATED BUILDING TRADES OF DUBLIN have passed a resolution indignantly denouncing the Sheffield outrages and "repudiating all connection with the trades unions of England." The presidents of the bricklayers, carpenters, house-painters, plasterers, and slaters were present, and assented to the resolution.

A GIRL, aged thirteen, named Fanny Brown, has been committed to the Assizes, from Halesowen, on a charge of wilful murder, she having drowned the baby she was employed to nurse—a child a year and a half old—by drowning it in a cistern. It is alleged that she assigned as a reason that deceased had spoiled her dress when she was going to the Foresters' fête!

THE CURE OF SOULS in Russia has for centuries been hereditary. The son of a priest becomes a priest, or if he has only daughters, the eldest conveys the parish to her husband. Of course the priest is as little of a pastor as is well possible, but he is much linked with the peasantry; and the Government, to improve the character and diminish the popularity of the priesthood, have abolished its hereditary character. Henceforward the best candidate is to be appointed.

THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT appears almost daily in the *Anglo-French Messenger*, and a reply—post paid—is requested to be sent to one Michel Monceau, Munich:—"It is youth, education, and sentiment which, united with riches, constitute the charm of human life. I am young, well educated, and possessed of feeling; but, alas! I am not wealthy. Now, which of you have a surplus of riches is willing to bestow on me a share? But do not offer a smaller sum than £10,000, for to accept less than that would be to beg."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

WE have arrived at the end of the second week in August, and still Parliament is sitting. On Saturday all the members that can leave will be off, most of them to the moors, that they may be ready for the war upon the grouse, which begins on Monday. But Parliament must still sit on. Indeed, no one can yet tell when it will rise. Strenuous efforts will be made to get it up on Saturday, the 17th; but it has much to do, and whilst I am writing, it seems impossible to clear off the work so soon. No doubt the Reform Bill will be passed and done with long before that. In all probability the Lords' amendments will have been discussed and settled before your day of publication. But there is much to be done besides that. There are at this moment eighteen votes in supply to be taken; and until they be got, the Appropriation Bill cannot make its appearance on the paper; and, further, there is a cattle plague bill which must be passed, and that has not yet got through Committee in the House of Commons; and after its dismissal from the Lower House it must run through the House of Lords. This bill might have been got through Committee on Tuesday morning but for the locquacity of Lord Robert Montagu, who, instead of silently moving that Mr. Speaker do leave the chair, must needs make a speech of three quarters of an hour. This speech, of course, bred other speeches, and thus nearly two hours were wasted. If this time had been devoted to consideration of the clauses in Committee, the bill would have been read a third time on Thursday. His Lordship's locquacity has certainly added a day or two to the Session. He was warned of what would happen; but the cacophony was strong upon him, and he must speak or die. At present it seems impossible that the House can rise before Monday or Tuesday in the third week in this month. It has not sat so late as this since 1857, I think it was, when it sat till the 28th. It was then delayed by Sir Richard Bethell's Divorce Bill, which Lord Palmerston determined should pass that year.

In a bluebook just issued, containing the correspondence on the subject of the Abyssinian captives, I find a letter from Dr. Beke, alluding to certain slanders which the Doctor was accused of propagating about the conduct of a certain gentleman of position in Assyria. What those slanders were the letter does not reveal. Nor do I find the subject alluded to elsewhere in the book. Curiosity has been excited, and strange rumours are afloat—rumours which cannot be printed, as this letter does not seem to be in any way connected with the liberation of the Abyssinian captives. I am at a loss to imagine why it was published. I have said that the rumours are strange. Let me further say that I have not heard that there is a tittle of evidence to prove them; they seem to me to be mere gossip. Dr. Beke is evidently a gossip; and moreover, from all I have heard, I should say that he has no very good feeling towards the gentleman in question. You will say that all this is mysterious. I have purposely made it as mysterious as I can by suppressing all the names of the parties concerned, except that of the writer of the letter.

The *Tomahawk*, of this week, I have seen in the hands of at least a dozen people. It was, on Wednesday, circulated about the House of Commons pretty freely. I have heard but one opinion about the cartoon, and that opinion was—an expression of unqualified disapproval and disgust. It was shown in my presence to a Cabinet Minister, and his exclamation was, "False and cruel." It was handed to an ex-Cabinet Minister, and he handed it back with an expression of contempt. And, surely, everybody with a sense of decency left in his breast must be ashamed of such a violation of all propriety as this. This is not liberty but license; and how cowardly it is thus to attack a woman who cannot possibly defend herself! Never strike a woman is a rule generally respected by the lowest of the people. But the fellows who sketched and published this, though no doubt they think themselves gentlemen, have foully struck a woman whose hands are tied, and that woman their Sovereign, who, we learn from the *Lancet*, is, in addition to her mental suffering, labouring under bodily ill-health.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER. THE MAGAZINES.

According to usage in this column, Mr. Editor, I ask your leave to put the greatest stranger first—that is, Messrs. Routledge's new venture, the *Broadway*. The intense, uncompromising ugliness of the stranger's exterior, too, gives it a claim to the place. Yet a mere description will not have an ugly sound with it. Here, gentlemen, you perceive, at the top, the dove of peace seeing all fair between the British Lion and

The American eagle,
Whom we as the proud bird of destiny hail;
For that wise fowl you can never inveigle
By depositing salt on his venerable tail.

In the midst are Britannia and Columbia shaking hands across the broad way; over them the union-jack; under them the stripes and stars (I put the stripes first because, within this year, two children of very tender years have been beaten to death in America by their parents for not saying their prayers; and one young lady of seventeen openly birched in school for whispering in class, two men holding her down because she resisted); the whole being tied up in a twist of way by the Atlantic cable. Opening the magazine, one receives, again, a first impression of inelegance, and, above all, a whiff of a too palpable, deliberate "catering-for-the-public" sort of atmosphere. Fortunately, Mr. Buchanan's very lovely poem of "Charmian" meets you at page 28, and your good-humour is restored. Mr. Hollingshead, in "Dramatic Criticism Criticised," writes, as he always does, with lucidity, poise, and just appreciation of fact. Mr. Edmund Yates contributes a paper entitled "In the Season"—that is description enough. What a rattling pen he has!

Look how quotoly smokes, when they see me passing by!
Quotoly see to thesen, "What a mon a be severly!"

(I am quoting without book.) The wonder is how he can keep up this eternal gossip; I have read it all about sixteen thousand times already, and yet it seems new. Mr. W. Clark Russell on "Bryant and American Poetry" is sensible and discriminating, and, for a wonder, the light verse (contributed by Mr. Clement W. Scott and Mr. H. Savile Clarke) is good. In "Second Thoughts" Mr. Burnand is not up to the mark of, apparently, a happy idea. Some of his readers will say the plums are not worth picking out of such a muddle. The grotesques by Griset are funny, and the author of "Guy Livingstone" will be found attractive by quite young readers in "Brakespeare; or, The Fortunes of a Free Lance." Well, Sir, I have no doubt that the *Broadway* will succeed, because I have faith in the publishers; it remains to see if it will make us love it, so that, if it should not succeed, we shall feel as if we had lost a friend. But our magazines are tending to become in an excessive degree "newspaperial"—a point strikingly illustrated in the two new comers, the *Broadway* and *Tinsley's*.

In the *Cornhill*, "Stone Edge" and "Captain Marryat at Langham" appear to me to be the chief attractions. The verses entitled "Ave Maria," are, I think, real poetry. But why should they be printed in small type? If poetry is worth printing at all, it is worth as much space as prose.

In *Macmillan's Magazine* I can recommend Mr. Henry Sidgwick on "The Prophet of Culture;" it is a very intelligent and temperate article. Mr. Sidgwick applies to Mr. Matthew Arnold's prose the word which I have so often applied to it in these columns—*perverse*. Mr. Carlyle has an article entitled "Shooting Niagara: And After?" He is quite horrified at the precipitation with which he thinks we are tumbling down into what is called democracy, and he raises his old cry of "Find out a hero, make the people obey him, and chain up and horsewhip those that won't!" But the time has gone by when Mr. Carlyle could influence British opinion. He has done in his time much good and much mischief, but the world has at last shot by him.

In the *Fortnightly*, among other less obviously and generally attractive matter, there is a paper on "Theodore Parker," by Mr. Conway, which says only one or two things that we have not all read before, but which is readable and very intelligent, like all Mr.

Messrs. Routledge have done a real public service in issuing this admirable edition of the best of British biographies; and at the low price of three shillings and sixpence, too! The work is printed uniform with the same publishers' editions of "Don Quixote," "Gil Blas," and other standard works; and, we should say, is sure to command a large sale, which it thoroughly deserves.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION. THE BIG GUN OF THE FRENCH MARINE.

THE French heavy guns, of which we have already given some account, are mostly of cast iron, strengthened externally with steel hoops; but the metal is not cast in the ordinary modern manner, neither is it managed according to the American plan, but rather as all guns were cast up to 1745, when Maritz introduced solid castings. A core of moulding-sand is formed round an iron spindle fixed centrally in the mould which has been made to receive the fluid metal. The bore is thus kept open but not chilled, as in Rodman's method, by a stream of water passing through a hollow core. There can be no doubt that the French guns are stronger than our ordinary cast-iron ordnance produced during the latter part of the eighteenth century and the first sixty years of the nineteenth; but, according to the opinion of some who should know a little of the matter, they will not last long if high charges are used, and high charges must be used in operations intended to penetrate iron plates. The steel rings may help to save the men from destructive explosions, but their effect in strengthening the weaker interior is said to be very small. In a French work on modern artillery, just published, it is stated that, besides furnishing steel rings and trunnions for about 1700 guns of their own country, Messrs. Petin and Gaudet have supplied the same adjuncts for 1794 guns of private inventors in foreign nations, 120 of which have been for England. The new heavy guns actually introduced into the French service are four in number. The largest of them, 27-centimetre bore, has not yet been used sufficiently to work out range-tables from its experimental practice. The four sizes are as follows:—The gun of 16 centimetres, weighing 5000 kilogrammes; the gun of 19 centimetres, weighing 8000 kilogrammes; the gun of 24 centimetres, weighing 14,000 kilogrammes; and the gun of 27 metres, weighing 22,000 kilogrammes. This last is large enough in all conscience—11 in., and 16 tons; but we were promised another, for which Messrs. Petin and Gaudet had prepared trunnion-pieces, and which had been cast at Buelle—a gun of 42 centimetres. Great theoretical doubts exist as to the success of such a monster in rifled cast iron,



CHINESE FEMALE TEA-SELLERS AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

and probably some arrangements will shortly be made for experiments; for the casting has been accomplished, and a pair of these enormous engines have just arrived, and are now exhibited on the Quai d'Orsay, Paris, where they attract crowds of visitors. There they lie amidst some other ordinary pieces, a brace of marine monsters, solid iron, with two rows of steel hoops. They are, of course, breech-loaders; and, notwithstanding the doubts entertained, the French artillerymen declare that the experiments made at L'Orient justify the use of these enormous guns in the marine service, and of two descriptions of projectiles—one cylindrical, for penetrating at a short range the iron plating of ships; and another cylindrical-conical, for long-range practice. To cast these immense guns ten furnaces were required, each connected with the mould; and the work has been intrusted to the superintendence of General Fiebault, who sought the advice and assistance of the most experienced officers of the artillery service.

The spectacle of these metal monsters is not without its peculiar interests; and it is the proper thing to do to go and pat them, and stroke them, and span them, and peep about the valves, and put one's head into the enormous muzzles. But it is immensely fatiguing; and one finds oneself wandering away in search of the cool American drink of iced soda and orange, or lemonade and raspberry; or, better still, towards the Russian samovod for a cup of delicious cool tea with a squeeze of lemon. Talking of tea, there is a wonderful attraction not much noticed in the reports of 'own correspondents,' but an attraction, nevertheless. A veritable Chinese teashop, with great porcelain jar and gaudy, pearly, varnished boxes, and fragrant chests, and bizarre ornaments all complete; presided over by a couple of such truly Celestial creatures, that the whole place is like a dream of Peking, before the French sacked the Summer Palace and Captain Negri got possession of the watches, dragons, vases, jewels, filigree, coral, pearls, and jade stones which made up the Imperial treasury. It is a delightful change to saunter into this sleepy retreat, where the two women sit like China figures, and, it may be supposed, deal in the pure article, free from all that green colouring matter, dirt, dust,



INTERVIEW BETWEEN THE SHEIK-UL-ISLAM AND THE GREEK PATRIARCH AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

F A S H I O N S F O R A U T U M N.

and general adulteration by which tea is prepared for the London market. Hitherto—whatever may have been the fault of tea in London, however—it has been a thing almost unattainable in Paris. No French man or woman knew how to prepare it; the Parisian tea was, as a drink, infinitely worse than tisane—a delightful decoction of healing herbs dispensed by French nurses for all

in deference to the invincible might of the world's progress; and when the boundaries even of religious tolerance are enlarged by the influences of a growing humanity, just as the claims of humanity have been enforced by the perceptions of religious truth. For an impressive act of religious toleration to be accomplished in the capital of Islamism may well be regarded as an important sign of the times; but Constantinople is not altogether unimpressible by events, and for the first time the representative of the Mussulman religion, his Highness the Sheikh-ul-Islam, has received the new Ecumenic Patriarch, head of the Greek Church, in solemn official audience.

Accompanied by his subordinate, Costaki Effendi, the Patriarch was treated as an honoured guest; and, though the interview was a

very great variety of material and trimming now being used for jupons. Many braided and fancy petticoat edgings are sold by the yard, so that a plain lama skirt may be effectively renewed and changed; and a petticoat of white lama will be an inexpensive and elegant addition to the wardrobe.

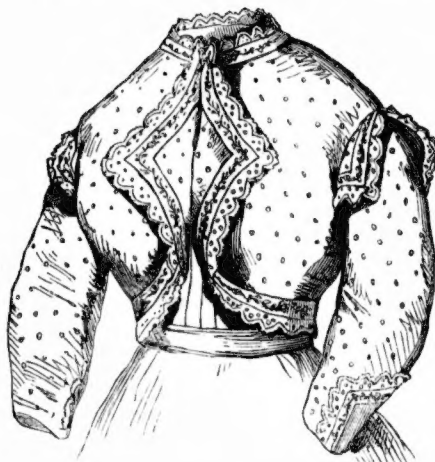


HEAD-DRESSES.

ailments. Probably the Russian restaurant and the Chinese marchandes may establish bohea, hyson, and souchong as the bases of a new luxury in French society.

INTERVIEW BETWEEN THE SHEIKH-UL-ISLAM AND THE ECUMENIC PATRIARCH.

THE event represented in our Engraving, although it has not received any marked public attention, is one of those which will make the present epoch significant in the history of the world as a period when even Oriental Conservatism has given way; when the laws of the Medes and Persians have lost their unalterable character,



JACKET.

private one, and no report of the conversation has transpired, it is generally understood that the Sheikh manifested the utmost desire for religious toleration.

THE FASHIONS.

THE strange uncertainty of the season has made it difficult to observe very strictly the traditions which assign to the sultry months of autumn those goosamer fabrics and zephyr-like robes which generally come in with the whitebait, and are the most charming of toiles on the lawn or under the marquee, when there are no longer any carriages in the drive and the "ladies' mile" has become silent and deserted. The first days of August are so suggestive of "a warm shawl" that it is scarcely possible to adhere entirely to the latest mode; but no doubt, at the lakes, or at the various health resorts in Europe, Fashion will yet claim her own, and wisdom—that is to say, *Le Follet*—will be justified of her children.

For seaside dresses the materials most employed will be alpaca or woollen; the petticoat, dress, and paletot of the same embroidered or trimmed with a darker shade of the same colour as the dress. The costume for walking is still most generally adopted, long-train skirts being only worn for dining and evening dress. There is a



HEAD-DRESSES.

The new colour, Bismarck, is much admired, and is made in every material. There are two different shades—one a light golden colour, called *Bismarck clair*; the other a dark, reddish brown, or *Bismarck foncé*. A costume entirely of this colour is worn with a bronze hat and trimmings of metallic leaves.

A very pretty costume for the seaside was made of white piqué cut in squares at the bottom of the skirt and edged with Bismarck braid, each breadth caught together by a ladder of brown braid and having bows of ribbon placed here and there. The petticoat was of piqué, edged with three rows of braid; the paletot trimmed to match. The same model made in alpaca or sultana, trimmed with silk rouleaux of a darker shade than the dress, would be equally effective and fashionable.

The colours most used for ladies' dresses are white, light grey, or buff, trimmed with blue, pink, or violet. A dress of grey poil de chèvre,



WALKING-DRESSES.

with two skirts, was trimmed with bands embroidered in different colours; the paleot, loose fitting and short, in the same style. A short dress of Bismarck poult de sole, the skirt plaited like a Scotch dress; the paleot also plaited, with square ends in front, very short, and not fitting the waist at the back; over this a tunic of black grenadine is worn, looped up at intervals by jet gretots. The skirt of the tunic is edged with two rows of black lace, divided by a trimming of jet. A paleot of grenadine, trimmed like the tunic, should cover the Bismarck paleot, which appears to form its lining.

Foulards are greatly used for ball and evening toilets, and a novelty has been introduced for young ladies' dresses—a twilled washing silk, which is inexpensive and durable. Satin tartans are seen, too, of the same patterns as the poplins, while the Pompadour silks, and those with chine flowers and leaves are of the richest and most costly appearance. Jackets are made of every material and shape. The Bretonne, of white and scarlet, white and blue for croquet parties, the soft lamb wool with large jet buttons of white, cashmere, with swansdown trimmings; of alpaca, with embroidered trimmings; while for more elaborate toilets they may be of lace, grenadine, or spun silk, of Oriental design. An elegant burnous of this material, so arranged as to form either a shawl or burnous, is known as the exhibition reversible burnous. And we may mention here that everything of Turkish and Egyptian style is fashionable in ornament or fabric. Parasols, with antique carved handles, are made of feathers or delicate grass fringes, ornamented in the centre with field flowers or a bird resting in the midst of a fringe of marabout plumes.

We fear nothing will supersede the morels of tulle or lace called bonnets, which surmount the very high chignons now worn. Some of the models we have seen are really absurdly small, and one cannot help almost longing to see the old cottage shapes introduced before the approach of winter, or we may look for endless complaints of neuralgia from our fair friends.

However, whilst the coiffures of tulle or lace continue to be worn, we will describe a few which were most attractive. A bonnet of Bismarck tulle, the curtain of blond of the same colour carried across to form brides; the front edged with bronze drops; at the side a bird of paradise and gold leaves; two gold leaves were also placed on the strings as a fastening. A fanchon of white tulle trimmed with poppies and wheat-ears is very pretty; floating brides of tulle, and white ribbon strings fastened under the chin with flowers.

Hats very small, with scarcely any crown, are laid on the head, low in front and raised on the chignon; they are often trimmed with Bismarck veils, or a flat feather trimming may be laid round them; sometimes bronzed or gold leaves and flowers are used. The bronze hats are very pretty, but cannot be recommended for durability, as they soon lose their lustrous appearance.

Children's dresses are made with double skirts. A pretty frock for a little girl may be made of white cashmere or alpaca, the upper skirt vandyked and edged with black or a bright coloured silk, a bow of ribbon or a jet gretot on each vandyke. The bodice should be low, with a waistband and long ends at the back, trimmed to match the skirt. A plaited muslin chemisette may be worn with this dress.

Little boys wear suits of holland with braid trimmings, the knickerbockers loose at the knee; striped piqué or coloured jean, with large pearl or ivory buttons, makes an equally pretty costume.

The first figure in our Engraving represents a dress of violet silk; the skirt, cut short enough to escape the ground, is trimmed round the bottom with a wreath of leaves of the same material, piped with white silk. The pardessus of steel-coloured silk is cut square, Greek sleeves, and tunic rounded in front, and cut in points at the sides, edged with wide fringe. Large silk buttons, having fringe round the lower half, are placed at the sides, and a scarf of silk, with fringed ends, is worn round the waist. The bonnet is of maize crape, with ears of corn, forming a bandeau across the front.

The second figure displays a seaside costume of violet foulard, having round the skirt a wide piece of black silk on which are laid rouleaux of gold-coloured silk; the bodice, which is of the style of "François I," is round at the back, and forms a plastron in front, also trimmed with golden rouleaux. Five straps of black silk, piped with gold, of unequal lengths, fall over the violet skirt in front. The sleeves are tight, and trimmed at the wrist with golden bands and epaulets of black silk. Pardessus of black silk, without sleeves, forming an open tunic, and mantilla of black lace crossing the chest. The third toilet is a dress of light Bismarck silk, made with a tunic, cut in scallops and trimmed with folds of satin of a deeper shade. The under skirt has three folds of satin much wider than those on the tunic, and is only long enough to touch the ground. The cascade fits to the waist, and is cut in scallops and trimmed to match the tunic. The plain sleeves, with satin folds up the back to the elbow, are finished at the armhole with satin bands, having a row of buttons placed between them. Sash of silk, bound with satin; straw hat, with long scarf of crape and wreath of wild roses.

The jacket, of which we give an Engraving, is made of black silk or cashmere, embroidered with jet beads; it is round at the back, and falls *en revers* in front. The sleeve is nearly tight, and has a cuff and epaulet, which, with the reverse, are trimmed with guipure, headed by a galon of jet.

A cap of guipure, with small bouquets of roses and pink ribbon strings tied under the chignon. Another fanchon, the front having a wreath of leaves of different shades, crossing under the chin, will be found useful as models.

The "Du Barry" bonnet is of blue crape, with trimmings of ribbon and roses of a paler shade, and edged with crystal drops.

A coiffure of white tulle over black, with a pink bow in front, and leaves of ribbon in a wreath all round, ending in strings of ribbon at the back.

THE ABYSSINIAN CAPTIVES.—A telegram has been received conveying an important piece of news as to the Abyssinian captives. It is that the rebels against King Theodoros had been so far successful that they had cut off all communication between him and the captives. The despatch adds, in reference to the captives and the King, "No danger of their falling into his hands again." This news is said to have been brought by H.M.S. *Dalhousie* to Aden. She left Massowah on July 15. How the rebels may treat the captives remains to be seen.

MR. COBDEN IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—A ceremony of considerable interest has been quietly performed in Westminster Abbey. On Wednesday week a bust of the late Mr. Cobden, which has been placed in the northern transept, was formally unveiled in the presence of Dean Stanley, of Mrs. Cobden, of Mrs. Selzer, and of Mr. Woolner, the sculptor, to whom the nation is indebted for this latest attempt at the portraiture of the great free trader. The bust has been placed on that side of the transept which is adorned by monuments of Cornwall Lewis, Charles Buller, and Francis Horner. The inscription is as follows: "Richard Cobden, born June 3, 1804; died April 2, 1865. Buried at West Lavington Church."

THE LUXEMBURG QUESTION AGAIN.—The Paris correspondent of the *Nord* says:—"A note was recently sent by our Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Government of the King-Grand-Duke on the subject of the position created for Luxembourg by the new German Zollverein. The delegates of the Zollverein are, according to the new Prussian plan, to form a special Parliament for the discussion of economical subjects in the Federal Parliament. The Cabinet of the Tuilleries considers that this mode of organisation is a kind of Parliamentary annexation which would be in manifest contradiction with the neutrality stipulated for by the recent treaty. This note is addressed to Prussia in a roundabout way through the Hague. But it cannot trouble the peace of Europe, because the King of Holland can easily decline any responsibility in the matter."

CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.—This popular troupe of performers have this week commenced with an entire change of programme, and new engagements greatly tending to strengthen the usual attractions of the entertainment have been concluded. Mr. Washington Norton, an extremely clever jig and eccentric dancer, whose salutory movements elicit loud applause, made his first appearance on Monday evening; Messrs. Stirling and Anderson make up a trio who render this part of the company very strong and amusing. The pleasing tenor ballads sung by Messrs. J. Rawlinson, C. Ernest, and W. Haigh comprise some new and plaintive compositions which elicit loud demonstrations of approval. The new burlesque Italian operatic sketch is received with roars of laughter; and the entertainment concludes with the Christy's original burlesque dance, entitled "The Rival Lovers," in which the varied talents of the different performers are exerted with great success.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE Worcester and Birmingham Festivals promise to be unusually interesting this year. At the former a new oratorio by Mr. Otto Goldschmidt is to be produced; at the latter a cantata by Professor Sterndale Bennett and a setting of the "Ancient Mariner" by Mr. Barnett.

In the meanwhile, the closing of her Majesty's Theatre marks the absolute termination of the musical season. Mdle. Nilsson has been Mr. Mapleson's great attraction this summer, and her brilliant and varied success has proved once more that a new singer who really pleases the public is quite as powerful a source of attraction as a new opera which fulfils the same conditions. "Faust" in the days of his youth did not draw larger houses than Mdle. Nilsson has done in "La Traviata," in "Martha," in "Don Giovanni," and, above all, in "The Magic Flute." In neither of these operas, it is true, was Mdle. Nilsson the sole attraction; but her singing was so admirable, her appearance and performance so thoroughly graceful, and she was altogether so new, that, with all respect to her colleagues, we may at least say that it was almost entirely for her sake that people flocked to the theatre the nights that Mdle. Nilsson sang, while they went straggling in on what were really looked upon as off nights. The great counter-attraction to Mdle. Nilsson, at least in the way of novelty, was Verdi's "Forza del Destino." In this case, however, the opera could not stand against the singer at all. "La Forza del Destino" enjoyed at Her Majesty's Theatre every advantage that its composer could have desired for it. No opera was ever played with a stronger cast—we can scarcely remember any opera having been played with a cast so strong. In the part of the heroine Mdle. Titiens sang magnificently, and if anything could have given dramatic interest to the work, it would have been Mdle. Titiens's admirable acting. The tenor music was given superbly by Signor Mongini, who is never more at home than in the music of Verdi. Mdme. Trebelli-Bettini rendered, with her usual cleverness and good taste, the characteristic drum-song of the vivandière. Mr. Santley did full justice to the ballads of the bad brother, and even the minor part of the sentimentally religious priest was made important by the performance of Herr Rokitsansky. There are some good pieces in "La Forza del Destino," but the work, as a whole, can scarcely be expected to live. Mr. Mapleson has given it the best chance it ever can have had, and it will not be his fault if it should turn out that there is no real life in it. During the last few years Her Majesty's Theatre has acquired a special celebrity for its representations of classical operas. The "Medea," so much admired last season, was reproduced only the other night for the benefit of Signor Mongini, who was thus enabled to prove that it is not only in the facile music of the ordinary Italian composers that he is able to distinguish himself. The continued and increased success of Signor Mongini—who, as regards voice, is certainly without a rival among tenors—is one of the facts especially worth noting in the season just concluded. If it were necessary to call up each singer who deserves a word of praise, and to award it specially and in a formal manner, our task would be a long one. Let us say, generally, that Mr. Mapleson had engaged for the season of 1867 as fine a company as could possibly be brought together. Mdle. Titiens and Mdle. Nilsson were the sopranos; Mdme. Trebelli-Bettini and Mdme. Demerici-Lablache the contraltos (or mezzo-sopranos); Signor Mongini, Signor Gardoni, Mr. Hohler, Signor Bettini, and Mr. Lyall, the tenors; Mr. Santley and Signor Gassier the baritones; and Signor Rokitsansky the bass. The band has fully maintained its reputation, and Signor Ardit, in the exercise of his arduous duties as musical director, has shown himself as zealous and as indefatigable as ever.

It is stated that Mdle. Titiens is to sing this winter at St. Petersburg. Mdle. Pauline Lucca, too, has accepted an engagement at St. Petersburg, but only for twelve performances.

Signor Mongini goes to Paris for the opening of the Théâtre Italien, where his services are secured for the months of September and October.

A series of promenade concerts are to be given at Covent Garden, commencing next Wednesday, under the conductorship of Signor Bottesini and Herr Strauss.

Morning and evening concerts continue to be given at the Agricultural Hall, Islington—renamed "The Fairy Palace" for the nonce—which are attended by large audiences; and no wonder, for the artistes engaged are all popular favourites.

A THEATRICAL "LOOK-OUT."—A few days ago some of the Huddersfield borough policemen were taking the prisoners from the lock-up to the court-house, when two bailiffs, who were "in possession" at the theatre, came out to look at the prisoners. Instantly "the resident manager" closed the door, locked it inside, went to one of the windows, and laughingly surveyed the discomfited bailiffs. A crowd collected and enjoyed the unexpected "look-out" of the sheriff's officers. They appeared to be under the impression that it would be necessary to besiege the theatre. To confirm this, "the resident manager" appeared at one of the windows with a belt round him, in which he had stuck a theatrical battle-axe, whilst he carried in his hand a spear. Then he placed in the window a paper upon which was written, "In preparation, a new piece, entitled 'I've done my duty, you do yours.'" Another placard ran thus:—"Theatre Royal, Tuesday, July 30, 1867. 'All's Fair in Love and War,' an interlude of 'Looked-out,' to conclude with the farce of 'The Bitter Bit.'" Principal characters, the sheriff's officers and the resident manager." About six o'clock one of the bailiffs went down the coal-cellar, and, after groping about in the dark some time, came upon the trap-door underneath the stage, got through it, and so once more became a man in possession.

OPENING OF THE OYSTER SEASON.—The oyster season proper, which commences on Aug. 4 and closes on May 12, was opened, on Monday morning, at Billingsgate. The ancient duty imposed on the clerk of the market of ringing the bell was observed at five o'clock, and the market was then proclaimed open. Thirty-four years ago there were no less than eighty boats brought alongside Billingsgate and in front of the Custom House Quay, laden with oysters; but gradually the number became reduced to twenty or thirty, and on Monday morning only six vessels made their appearance. This diminution is due to the fact of large quantities being conveyed to London per rail throughout the year, irrespective of the "season." Hence the small sea-borne supply and the extraordinary prices offered. The real Whitstable "natives" fetched £5 per bushel, being an advance of £3 compared with last year's prices; 50s. were asked for "pearls," against 44s. last year; "colliers" sold at 40s., last year's quotation being 32s.; and "commons" and other inferior sorts realised 14s. the bushel. Several West-End tradesmen had previously given their orders, and in other respects the purchasers were not numerous.

THE SCOTTISH MOORS.—The shooting season opens on Monday, the 12th; but, in consequence of the sad ravages made among grouse by disease in the spring months, the prospects of sportsmen in many districts of Perthshire have not been so discouraging for a long series of years. The distemper appears to have been most destructive in the Blairgowrie and Crieff districts of the county, and has on numerous moors completely cleared the stock of grouse; and in other places the birds are so scarce that there will be no shooting this season. In Rannoch and the north-west districts of the shire, however, there is a fair stock of grouse, and the young broods are rapidly improving in size and condition with the recent fine, warm weather; but complaints are pretty general in regard to many broods being composed of small and late birds, and it will be at least the end of August before there can be commenced on several moors. In the Crieff district alone there are about 80,000 acres of unlet shootings. In the month of March one proprietor refused £600 of rent for a small moor; and immediately afterwards disease broke out, and, consequently, the grounds would not let. Black game are abundant, and have suffered little from disease, compared with grouse. The broods, though much later than usual, are improving fast, and by the time the shooting opens will afford excellent sport. Plover, snipe, &c., are plentiful, and the birds appear strong, healthy, and in fine condition. All descriptions of low-country game are swarming, and more especially partridges, hares, wild duck, roe deer; and, if there be a deficiency of sport on the hills this season, the prospects of sportsmen in the low country have seldom been so encouraging. In the preserves, pheasants are numerous; the young broods, which number from ten to fourteen birds each, are large and well grown. In the Black-mountain, Glenartney, and Turfmoor forests the herds of deer are numerous, and the animals have seldom at this season been seen in such fine condition. There are already to be seen numerous stags with splendid heads. Previous to the breaking out of disease among grouse the greater part of the Perthshire moors were let to tenants, and in many instances at nearly double the former rents; but we understand that many of the proprietors have relieved tenants of their leases, for if shooting on many moors is to be prosecuted or preserved in this season, the whole stock of grouse will be extinguished. There are good prospects for sportsmen on the 12th in Oathness-shire. The keepers have seen no symptoms of disease, and report the birds plentiful and strong on the wing.—*Scotman*.

MR. BRIGHT ON THE LORDS' AMENDMENTS TO THE REFORM BILL.

ON Tuesday evening a crowded meeting was held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, under the auspices of the National Reform Union and the Northern Reform League, for the purpose of protesting against the Lords' amendments to the Government Reform Bill, Mr. George Wilson presided. Resolutions were passed unanimously, strongly condemning the several features in the Lords' amendments.

Mr. Bright supported the resolutions in a speech of some length. He said he was afraid the Lords had not acted magnanimously in their treatment of the bill. They seemed to look out for points where they could do mischief, and a mischief that would not recoil upon themselves. They had not touched finally the great points of the bill as it left the Commons, but they had adopted two propositions which were made to the Commons, and by the Commons decidedly and most wisely rejected. The scheme as to voting-papers was most foolish and mischievous. He had been charged with always hankering after something new, with proposing changes which people never would have wanted had he not proposed them; with seeking to overturn the long established and beneficent institutions of the country; and, in fact, with disturbing the general commonwealth. But what could be more new than this? What could be more needless than this? Was there anybody in the kingdom who knew anybody in the kingdom that had ever asked for this change? And it had been made by Lord Cairns, a very eminent lawyer, a very modern peer indeed; a member until very recently of the Irish Tory and Orange party; a man who, with great ability and untiring perseverance, had fought for his party, and had opposed every Liberal proposition connected with home politics that had been submitted to the House of Commons during all the years that he had had a seat in that assembly. Mr. Bright then commented on the proposed representation of minorities with considerable severity. He maintained that there was no grievance under the present system of electing by majorities, and that no remedy was required; that the aggrieved party, if there were one, "had never told its grief;" and that until some superlatively fine people, who had found out what nobody else was likely to discover, had hit upon this plan, every minority at elections throughout the United Kingdom when the poll was declared, if the majority was fairly won, would go to its several homes satisfied that that had been done which the true interests and representation of the country required. If this plan were so good, why had an exception been made of Glasgow? Government would not try upon the Scotchmen this hated experiment by which the member for South Glasgow would neutralise one of the two members for Glasgow; and that greatest city of Scotland, and outside of London the greatest city of the United Kingdom, would not therefore have its political power crippled and destroyed. It was not proposed to divide the great towns into wards, but to strive to secure the representation of different opinions. In fact, we were about to do that which would really destroy all interest which men have who go to Ascot and to Epsom, and we were going to have a great political race, and the last horse is to win just as much as the first. Taking the cases of Manchester and Salford, he said, that while on local questions Manchester would have three members and Salford two, yet in great political questions in divisions Manchester would only count one, while its smaller neighbour would have two votes. He asked his countrymen to reject this new and worst device of their opponents, because it was a principle disastrously fatal to everything which we comprehended, and which our forefathers had comprehended, of the true principle of popular representation. He infinitely preferred the practice of the robust common-sense of those who had gone before us to this new scheme which was offered to us with so many professions for our good. He regarded it—he said it without fear of whomsoever it might strike—as the offspring and spawn of feeble minds. It might have been, for aught he knew, born of eccentric genius. It might and probably had been discovered in some of those abysses into which the speculative mind of old delighted to plunge. But he preferred, he said, honestly, that which our forefathers understood of freedom of popular representation, of the mode of manufacturing a great Parliament, to any of these new-fangled and miserable schemes which have come into light in our day.

A petition to Parliament was adopted in furtherance of the object of the meeting.

BALLOON VIEW OF SUNRISE.

MR. HENRY COXWELL, the well-known aeronaut, gives the following account of an ascent lately made to observe from a balloon the rising of the sun:—

On July 31, at 4.10 a.m., I ascended, in company with Captain Woodgate from the neighbourhood of East Grinstead, in Sussex, our object being to witness sunrise.

My balloon, "Express," had descended in that locality on the previous evening, after an ascent from the Crystal Palace, when Captain and Mrs. Woodgate, Miss Valentine Hagart, Mr. F. Norris, and Mr. Wm. Woodgate were the occupants of the car, myself, of course, included.

The principal features of the evening voyage on Tuesday were a slow rate of travelling and a decided manifestation of enjoyment on the part of the ladies. We were more than three hours in going a distance of twenty-five miles.

The weather being extremely mild, I anchored my balloon for the night, which was an affair of no great difficulty. After partaking of refreshment it was decided that two gentlemen should return to Norwood with Mrs. Woodgate and Miss Hagart; and at 4.10 a.m., the morning being cold and cheerless, we ascended from Mr. Dawson's farm, the temperature being so low as 40 deg. Fah., while the barometer stood at 29.70.

The surrounding country was thickly wooded and picturesque, but a grey mist hung over the land, and a stranger to the country would have declared that numerous pieces of water were spread beneath. But this was for the most part an illusion, it was fog hanging over valleys and lowlands; and these lifted a little higher, when the aspect of the landscape as well as that of the heavens became changed by the sun bursting forth and drawing up the night vapours in cloud wreaths and rounded forms. At 4.20 the earth was almost totally eclipsed by a bluish veil of thick mist, which terminated at 3200 ft. elevation.

The upper bowl-shaped contour of this cloud mass was very marked and singular; the rim, over which was the blue sky, formed a perfect circle, without the least irregularity of outline, but just beneath the car there was a break, through which hedgerows and houses could be clearly discerned.

This vast basin of vapour had one pervading dark colour until 4.35, when the sun rose over the eastern ridge, and effected such rapid and magic changes as only the glorious king of day is capable of producing.

In my last view of sunrise, which I witnessed while engaged in aerial pursuits in the year 1862, there were mountainous ranges of clouds grandly lighted up with golden, purple, and orange tints; but this time it was a totally different scene; for, when the sun shed his dazzling lustre, two thirds of the cloud circle appeared deeply dyed with grey, while the eastern portion assumed such pure and spotless grandeur, so white and chaste, so gradually toned throughout a long vista leading to the sun, that our attention was directed for a considerable time to this beautiful appearance, and Captain Woodgate expressed himself surprised and enchanted.

As the sun rose the transformation was indeed extraordinary; the heat rays separated the continuous strata, and it mounted in fantastic shapes and gave place to cumuli, which rolled across the fields as if they brushed the earth in their transit. The crisp upper air soon provoked a longing for breakfast. I promised my companion to revisit terra firma, and ascend again afterwards to an elevation equal to that of Mont Blanc. Accordingly, we cast about for a meadow near Horton station, on the Brighton Railway, and again secured the Express while we visited an hotel for our coffee.

At eight a.m. we resumed our seats and ascended for the third time with the original supply of Crystal Palace gas.

On each occasion we recorded the temperature of the air and the readings of Negretti and Zambra's pocket aneroids—and although it may not prove of general interest to occupy much space with these figures, still it is advisable not altogether to omit them.

At 8 h. 3 m. after we had risen 1000 ft. the thermometer read 57 deg.; at 8 h. 18 m. we were a mile high, temperature being 30 deg.; at 8 h. 32 m. the barometers marked 18.40, and Fahrenheit had dropped to 12 deg.; at 8 h. 43 m., barometer 17.50, and temperature 7 deg., we were nearly over Reigate, and had been making cyclonic movements for some time, there being a total absence of any settled current in the higher atmosphere, while below it was steady at S.E.

At this time our barometers ceased to act, not being constructed to record pressure much more than two miles; but the lower part of the balloon had yet space for expansion, it having been only half inflated when we left Horton. The thermometer finally went down to 4 deg., so that we exceeded probably three miles in height, which was quite as much as I expected of the balloon after retaining the gas so long a time and after performing these threefold ascents.

The descent occupied half an hour, and we landed at 10.30, near Bletchingley, in Surrey.

GALLANT CONDUCT OF A YOUNG ENGLISHMAN IN FRANCE.—A young and handsome married French lady was, in company with her husband, making her way to one of the baths in the Seine, at Bougival, a few days ago, when she fell into the river. Her husband, who could not swim, endeavoured to rescue her by means of an oar, but without success, and she was on the point of being drowned, when a young English gentleman, Mr. Griffith, nineteen years of age, the son of the Vicar of Cadoxton, Wales, plunged in after her, sent her to the bottom of the river as a preliminary proceeding, and as she rose seized her by the hair of the head and got her out amid the enthusiastic cheers of the excited crowd. The lady subsequently wrote to Mr. Griffith, inviting him to her house, where she thanked him in the warmest manner for saving her life.

1. SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1967.